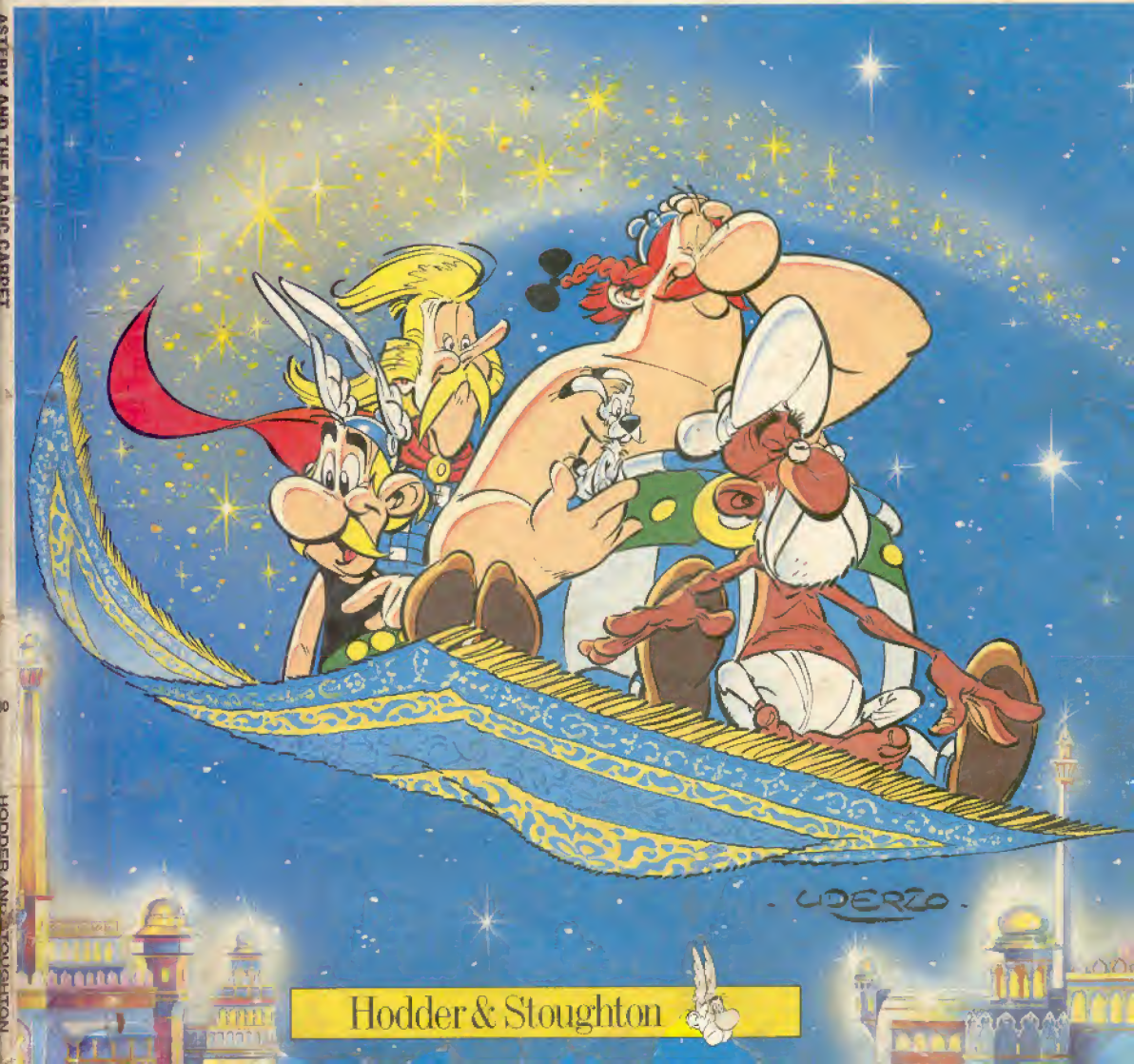


R. GOSCINNY - A. UDERZO

Asterix and the Magic Carpet

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY UDERZO



Hodder & Stoughton

OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING, OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY... AND THE GAULS HAVE GOT A WONDERFUL FEELING EVERYTHING'S GOING THEIR WAY IN THEIR BRAND-NEW VILLAGE...



**SILENCE WHILE
I PROPOSE A
HEALTH.' AND HE
THAT WOULD THIS
HEALTH DENY...**

**♪ DOWN AMONG
THE LEGIONARIES
LET HIM LIE... ♪**

**WITH
♪ A HEY DOWN ♪
DERRY DOWN
♪ DOWN! ♪**

**AND DOWN'S
THE WORD! YOU
JUST PIPE DOWN...
OR YOU COME
DOWN!**

**OH, SO
I CAN'T EVEN
TRY THE ACOUSTICS
OF MY NEW HUT?**

**THIS
WOULD TRY
THE PATIENCE
OF TOUTATIS
HIMSELF!
RIGHT! I SAID,
YOU COME
DOWN!**

**CHOP!
CHOP!**

**WHO ARE
YOU? WHERE
DO YOU COME
FROM?**

**I'M WATZIZNEHM
THE FAKIR. I WAS
FLYING OVER WHEN
I HEARD INHUMAN
NOISES, BECAME
UNBALANCED AND
HAD TO CRASH
YOUR PARTY.**

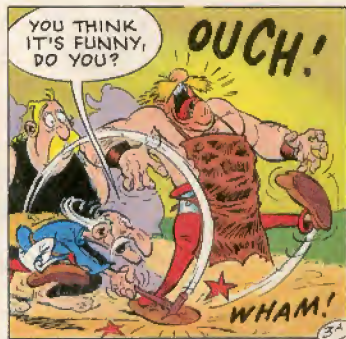
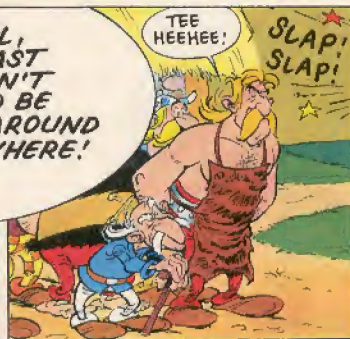
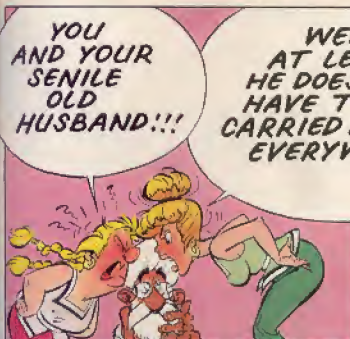
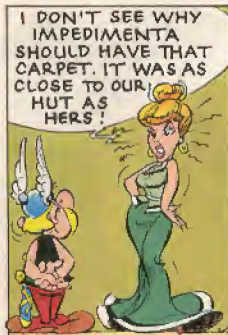
**YOU WERE
FLYING
OVER OUR
VILLAGE?**

**THESE
FAKIRS ARE
CRAZY!**

**WELL, YES!
HE FELL ON
HIS HEAD!**

**AND NOT FOR THE
FIRST TIME, JUDGING
BY THAT BANDAGE
ON IT!**

**OH, PIGGYWIGGY
LOOK WHAT I'VE
JUST FOUND OUT
SIDE OUR DOOR**



WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR OUR VILLAGE IN PARTICULAR?

I COME FROM A DISTANT EASTERN COUNTRY, WHERE AN EX-LEGIONARY WHO IS NOW A MERCHANT TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR FAMOUS DEEDS. SO I'VE COME ALL THIS WAY TO ASK YOU FOR HELP. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!

BUT BEFORE I TELL YOU ANY MORE, I'LL JUST RETRIEVE MY CARPET, IF I MAY.

PAF!

PIF!

LADIES, THAT CARPET IS MINE, AND I CAN PROVE IT.

THIS CARPET'S MINE, AND I'M NOT BUDGING!

IF YOU SAY SO!

?

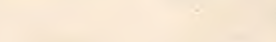
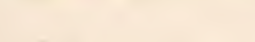
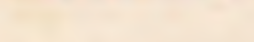
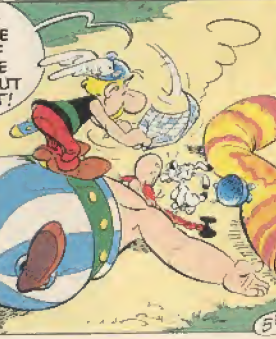
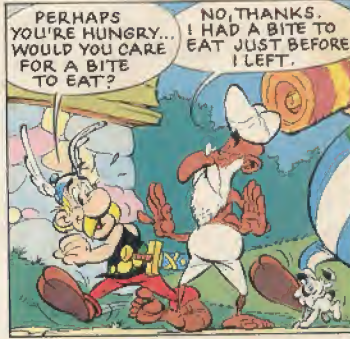
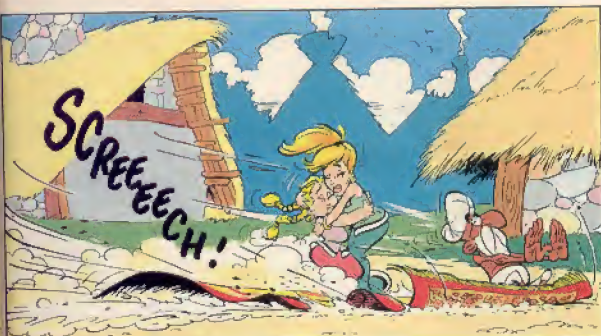
?

?

MUMMYYYY!!!

HOW DID HE DO THAT, GETAFIX?

I'VE HEARD TELL OF THE STRANGE POWERS OF THESE BEFORE. THEY CAN CONCENTRATE HARD ENOUGH TO LEVITATE WHATEVER THEY LIKE.



I COME FROM A KINGDOM WHICH LIES IN THE VALLEY OF THE GANGES. OUR CLIMATE IS HOT AND DRY, EXCEPT FOR A FEW MONTHS EVERY YEAR WHEN THE RAINS FALL, WATERING OUR CROPS. THAT IS THE MONSOON SEASON.

I HOPE HE HASN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER!



BUT WE MUST HAVE OFFENDED THE GOD INDRA*, BECAUSE THE MONSOON SEASON WILL SOON BE OVER, AND WE HAVEN'T HAD A DROP OF RAIN YET. THE DRY SEASON WILL BE BACK, BRINGING WITH IT FAMINE AND HARD-
SHIP FOR OUR PEOPLE.

*GOD OF THE WATERS



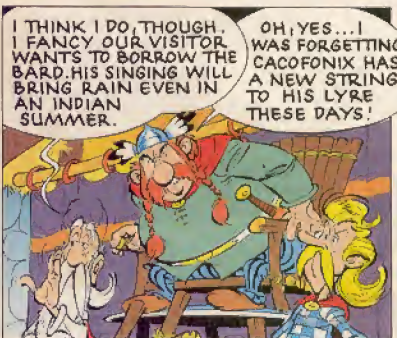
OUR GOOD KING, RAJAH WATZIT, HAS A DAUGHTER, THE SWEET AND LOVELY PRINCESS ORINJADE...

AND THE GURU* WHO SPEAKS WITH THE GODS, HOODUNNIT, DECREED THAT IF NO RAIN FELL BEFORE THE END OF THE MONSOON, IN A THOUSAND AND ONE HOURS' TIME, PRINCESS ORINJADE MUST BE SACRIFICED TO APPEASE THE WRATH OF THE GODS!

*LEADER OF A RELIGIOUS SECT

TEE HEE HEE!

BUT IF EVEN YOUR RAJAH DOESN'T HOLD THE RAINS OF POWER, I DON'T QUITE SEE HOW WE CAN HELP YOU!



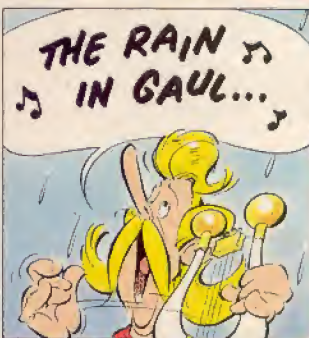
I THINK I DO, THOUGH. I FANCY OUR VISITOR WANTS TO BORROW THE BARD. HIS SINGING WILL BRING RAIN EVEN IN AN INDIAN SUMMER.

OH, YES... I WAS FORGETTING CACOFONIX HAS A NEW STRING TO HIS LYRE THESE DAYS!

ALL RIGHT, FAKIR! WE'LL LEND YOU OUR BARD, AND ASTERIX AND OBELIX WILL GO WITH YOU TOO.



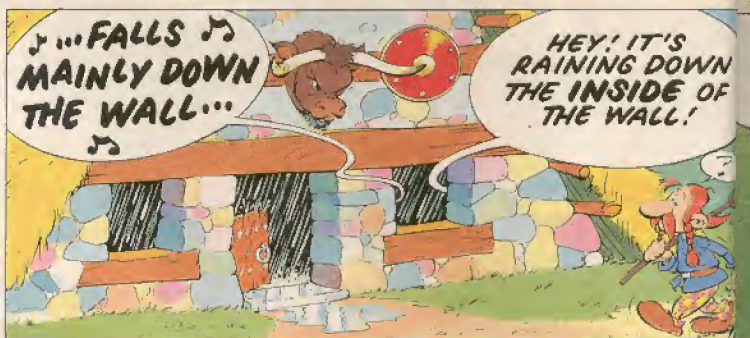
HOW DARE YOU SAY I MAKE IT RAIN? IT'S NOT TRUE! LISTEN TO THIS!



THE RAIN
IN GAUL...

...FALLS
MAINLY DOWN
THE WALL...

HEY! IT'S
RAINING DOWN
THE INSIDE OF
THE WALL!



EVERYBODY OUT! I SAID, EVERYBODY OUT!

CACOFONIX!
YOU'VE GOT
WATER ON THE
BRAIN...

IT'S NOT EVERY GAULISH
HUT THAT HAS RUNNING
WATER LAID ON!

BUT,
'PEDIMENTA
... OUCH!

**BANG!
PAF!
BING!**

AND LATER...

I PROMISE
TO BRING YOUR
BARD BACK VERY
SOON!

OH,
THERE'S NO
HURRY.

YOUR
SINGING WILL
TAKE THEM
BY STORM,
CACOFONIX!

YOU
THINK
SO?

IT'LL BE
A SMASH
HIT, AS
USUAL!

HERE, ASTERIX,
TAKE THIS GOURD
OF MAGIC POTION.
IT MAY COME IN
USEFUL.

THANKS,
GETAFIX. ANY
IDEA WHERE
OBELIX IS?

**MAKE WAY
THERE!**

?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING WITH
THOSE?

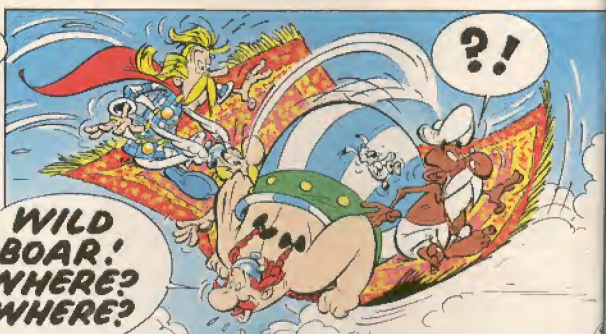
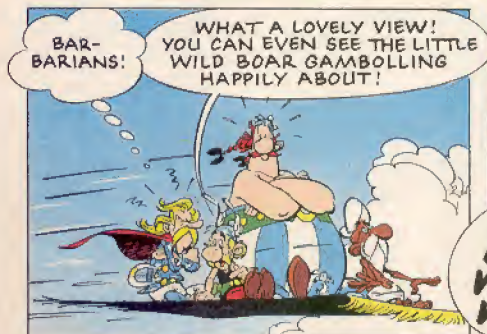
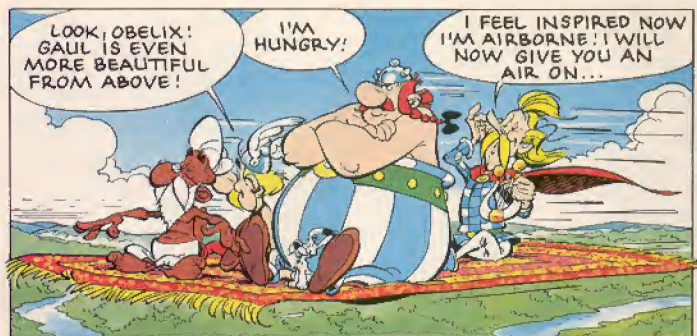
JUST LAYING IN
A FEW IN-FLIGHT
PROVISIONS...

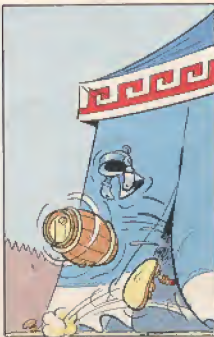
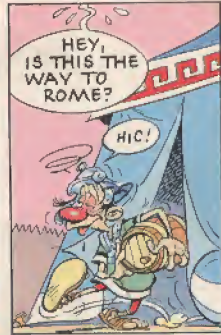
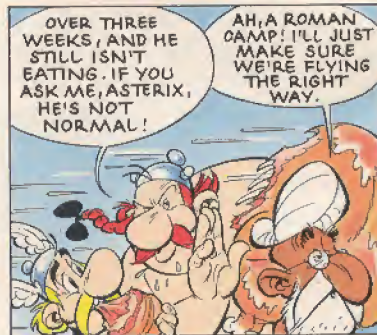
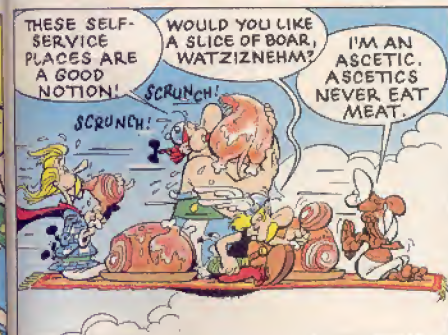
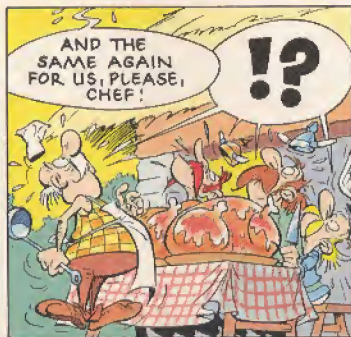
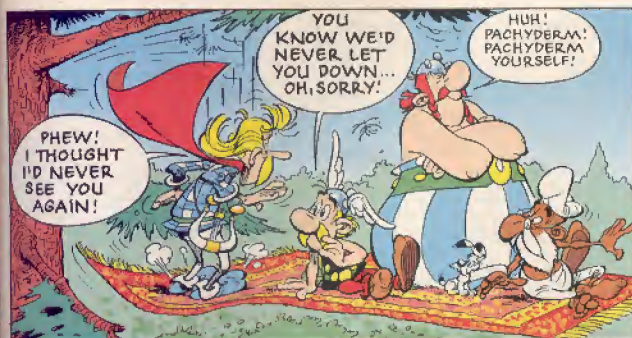
WOOF!
WOOF!

MY CARPET WILL
NEVER CARRY ALL
THAT! BUT WE CAN
STOP OFF TO EAT
WHenever YOU
WANT, OBELIX.

LATER...

I ALREADY
FEEL THERE'S
SOMETHING
MISSING!





AREN'T YOU GOING TO SLEEP?

I'M USED TO STAYING AWAKE ALL NIGHT. ANYWAY, I CAN ONLY SLEEP ON A BED OF NAILS!

I'M USED TO STAYING AWAKE ALL NIGHT. ANYWAY, I CAN ONLY SLEEP ON A BED OF NAILS!

MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY...

DEAR ORINJADE, IF THE FAITHFUL WATZINEHM DOESN'T ARRIVE IN TIME, WITH THE ANSWER TO ALL OUR PROBLEMS, THE INFAMOUS HOODUNNIT WILL CARRY OUT HIS THREAT. THE PEOPLE, FEARING FAMINE, WILL SUPPORT HIM!

I TRUST WATZINEHM, FATHER! HE WILL RETURN WITH THE GAULISH MIRACLE-WORKER BEFORE THE THOUSAND AND ONE HOURS ARE UP!

I TRUST WATZIZNEHM,
FATHER! HE WILL RETURN
WITH THE GAULISH MIRACLE-
WORKER BEFORE THE
THOUSAND AND ONE
HOURS ARE UP!

MEANWHILE, HALF OF THOSE THOUSAND AND ONE HOURS IS UP ALREADY; AND IT STILL ISN'T RAINING, O DIVINE PRINCESS.

WRETCH! WE KNOW THAT THE SOLE AIM OF YOUR EVIL PLOTS IS TO BECOME RULER OF THIS KINGDOM ONCE YOU HAVE DISPOSED OF THE ONLY TRUE HEIR TO THE THRONE! BUT YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT YET, HOODUNNIT!

YOUR GRIEF DELUDES YOU, GREAT RAJAH! THE GOD INDRA HIMSELF TOLD ME HIS WILL!

SEE THAT CLOUDLESS SKY, AND THE PITILESS SUN BEATING DOWN ON YOUR WHOLE KINGDOM? ISN'T THAT A SIGN THAT THE GODS THINK YOU'RE A HAS-BEEE-WATZIT?

SEE THAT CLOUDLESS SKY, AND
THE PITILESS SUN BEATING DOWN
ON YOUR WHOLE KINGDOM? ISN'T
THAT A SIGN THAT THE GODS
THINK YOU'RE A HAS-BEEN-
WATZIT?

THE GODS ARE NOT AS CRUEL AS YOU SAY. THEY WILL GUIDE THE SAVIOURS OF THE PEOPLE SAFELY TO US. THEY MUST BE ON THEIR WAY NOW!

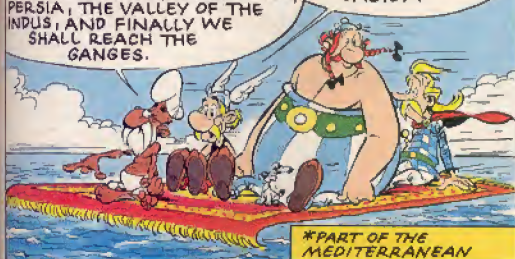


SHUT
UP AND GO
TO SLEEP
OBELIX!

ZZZZZ, ZZZZ, ZZZ,

WE ARE NOW ABOVE THE TYRRHENIAN SEA*. SOON WE'LL BE FLYING OVER ITALY, AND THEN GREECE, MESOPOTAMIA, PERSIA, THE VALLEY OF THE INDUS, AND FINALLY WE SHALL REACH THE GANGES.

HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO FIND YOUR WAY SO EASILY?



SIMPLE! I JUST DO AS THE CARRIER PIGEONS DO!



A LITTLE BOW-WOW WANTS HIS DIN-DINS, DIDDUMS THEN, DOGMATIX?

I SEE A SHIP! MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE DIN-DINS FOR A BIG CHUBBYCHOPS ON BOARD TOO!



YOU IN THE CROW'S NEST! SEE ANY SAILS AT SEA?

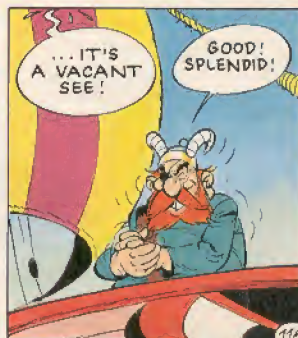


NOT A BLESSED SAIL, CAP'N...

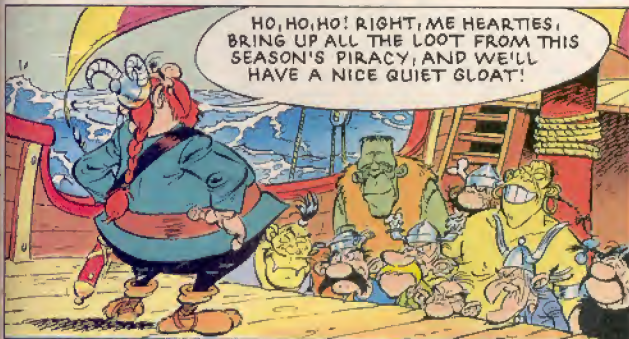


...IT'S A VACANT SEE!

GOOD! SPLENDID!



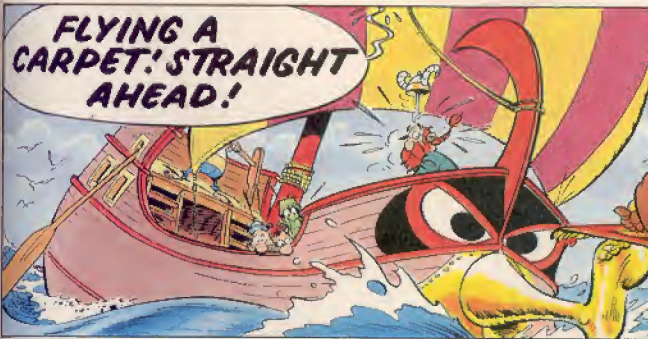
HO, HO, HO! RIGHT, ME HEARTIES, BRING UP ALL THE LOOT FROM THIS SEASON'S PIRACY, AND WE'LL HAVE A NICE QUIET GLOAT!



I...I...I SEE A SKY PILOT!

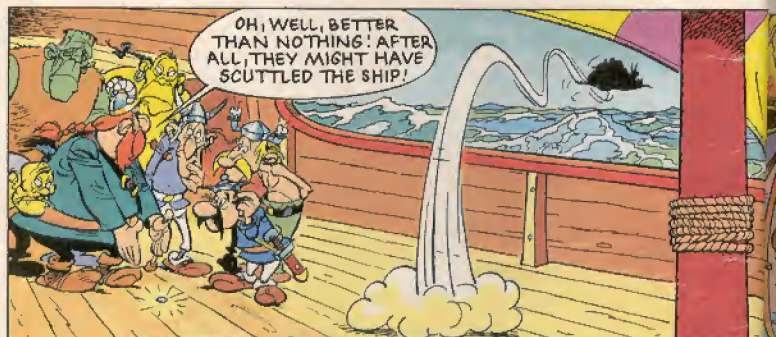
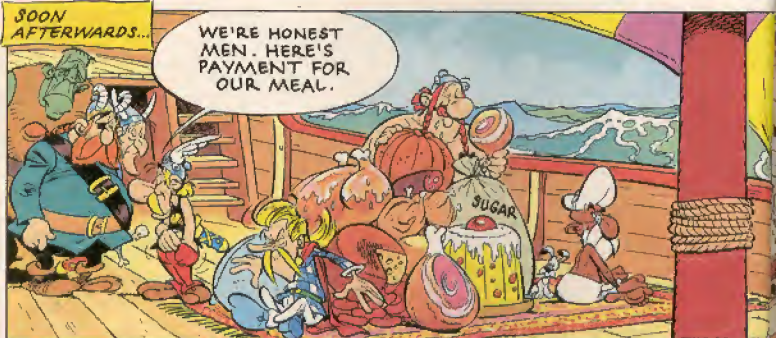


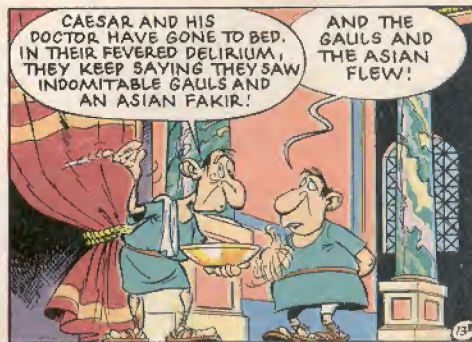
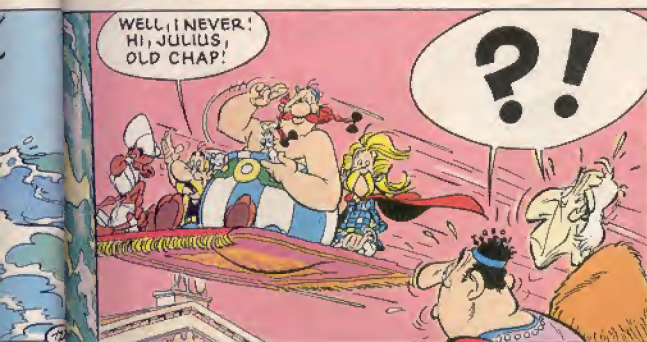
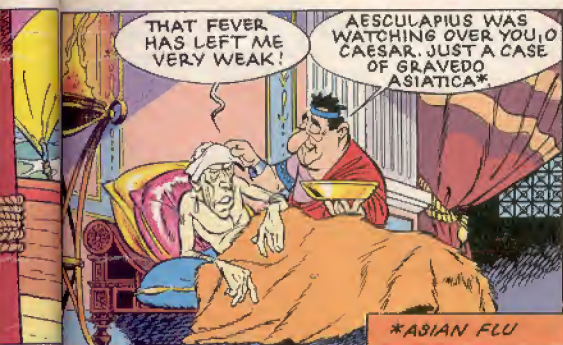
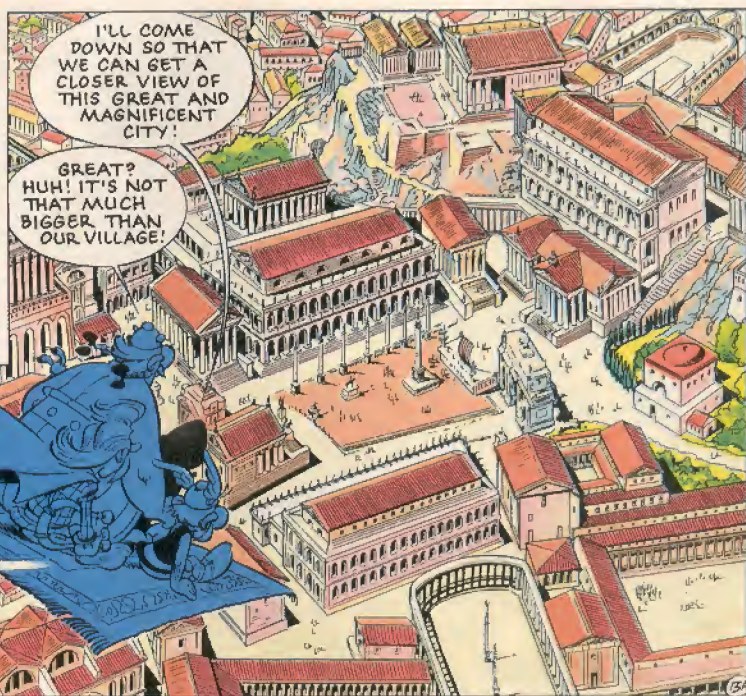
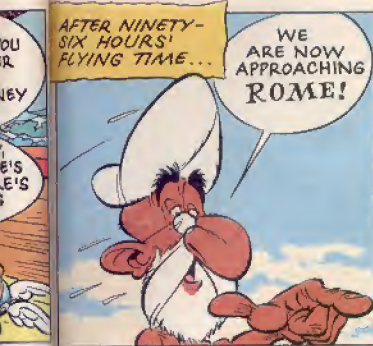
FLYING A CARPET! STRAIGHT AHEAD!

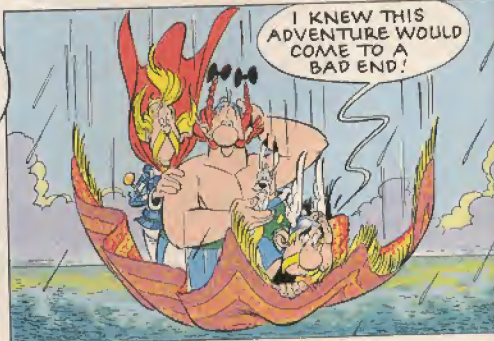
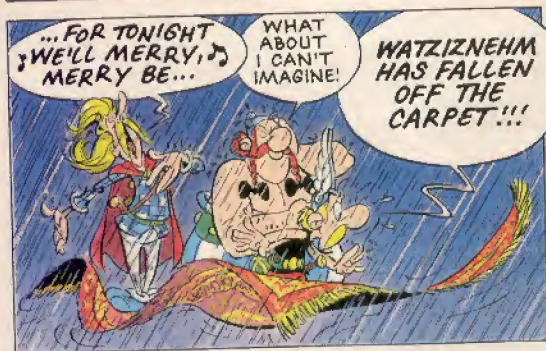
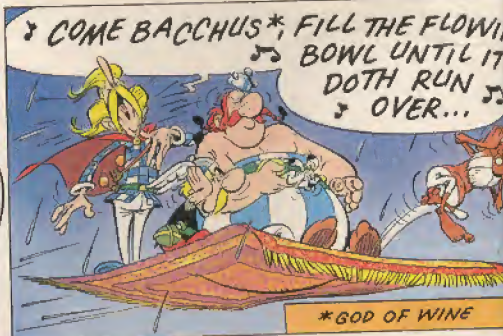
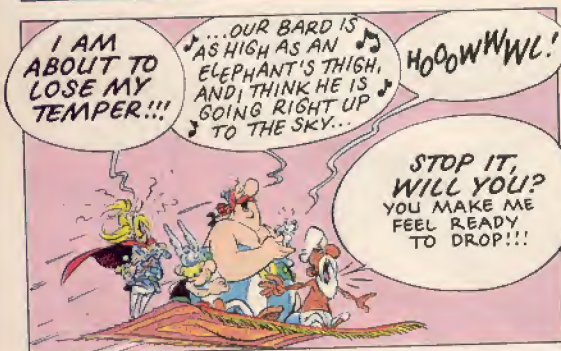
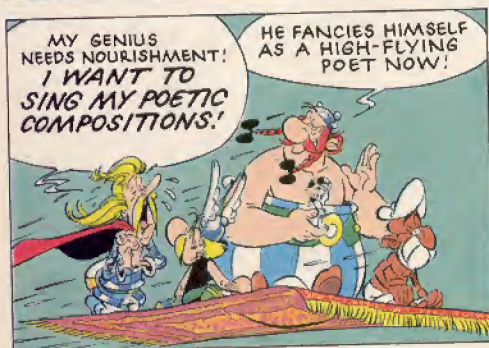
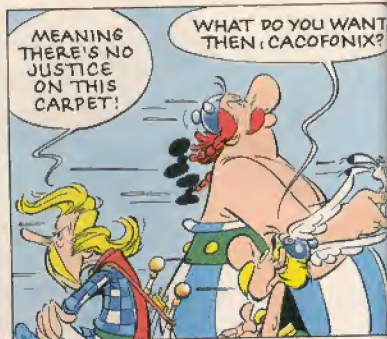
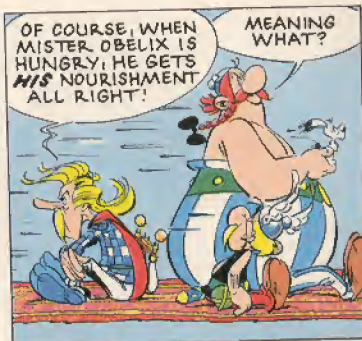


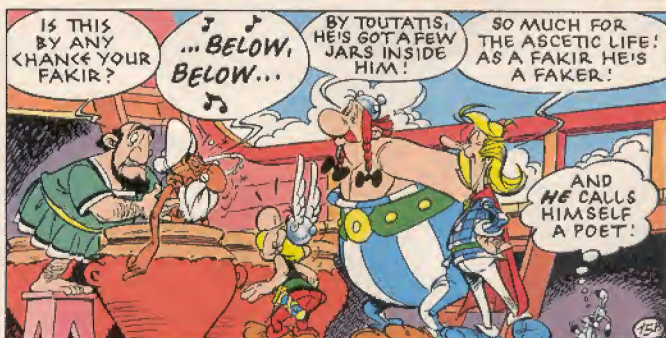
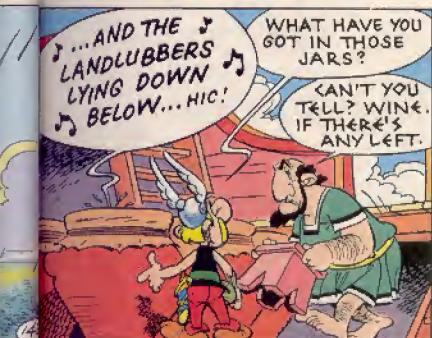
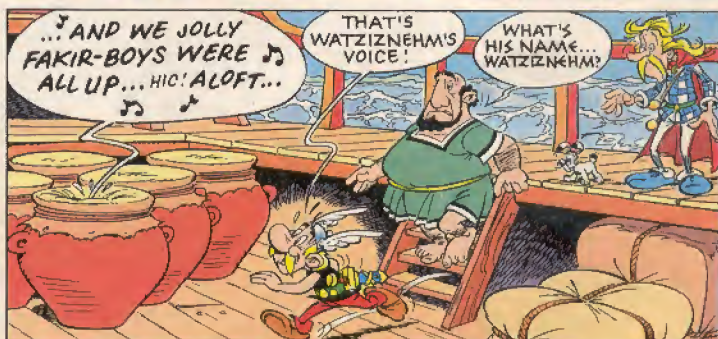
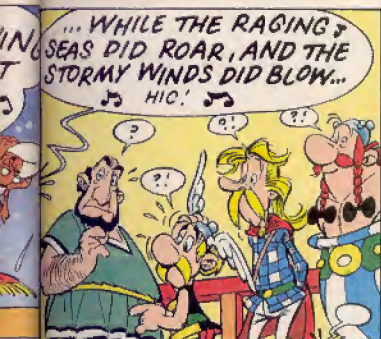
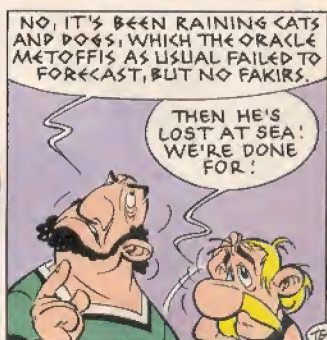
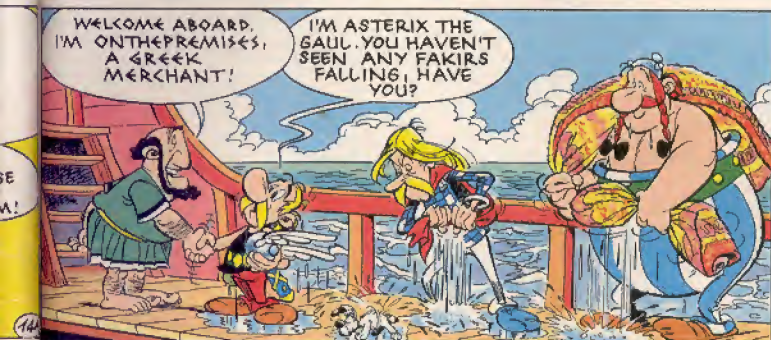
WHY, IF IT ISN'T OUR DEAR OLD FRIENDS!

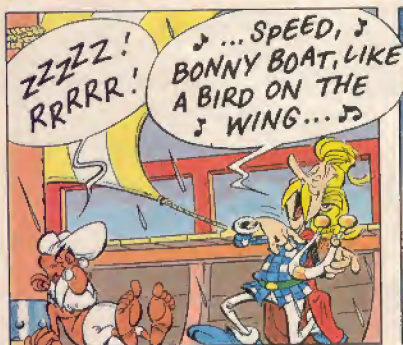
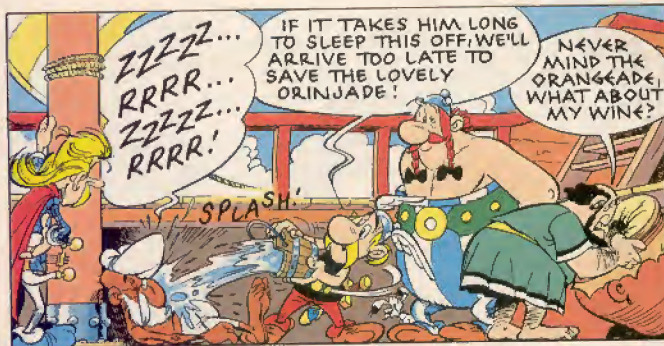


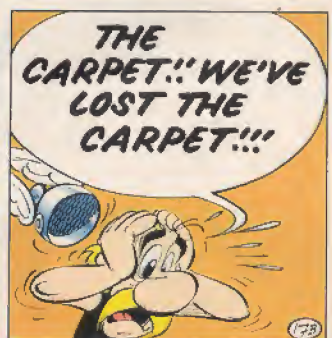
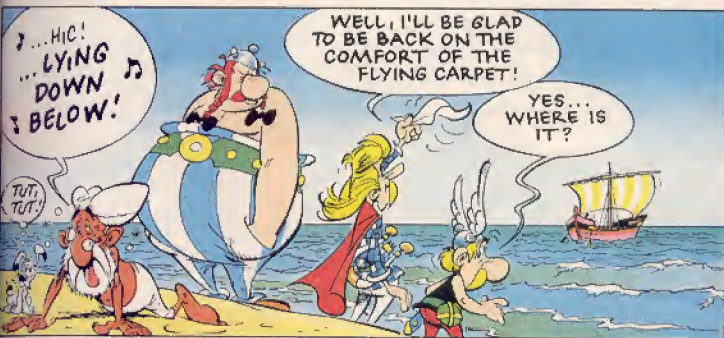
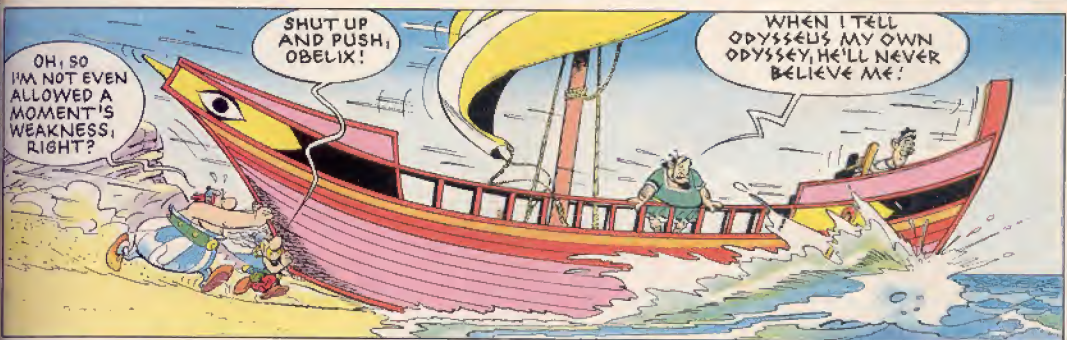
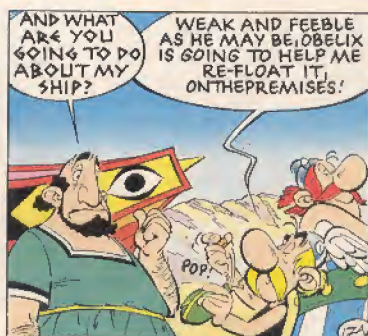
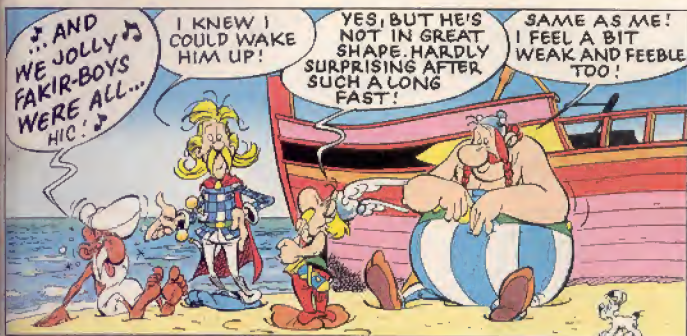
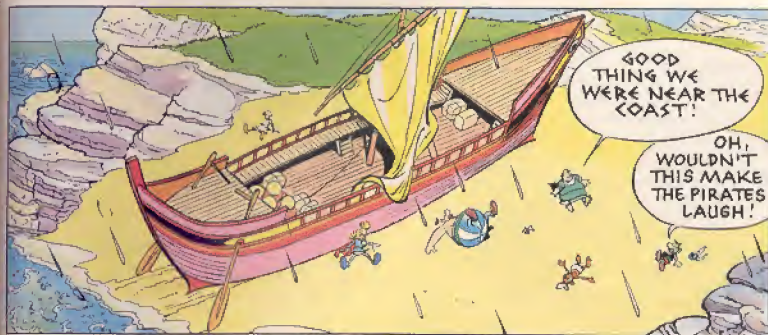


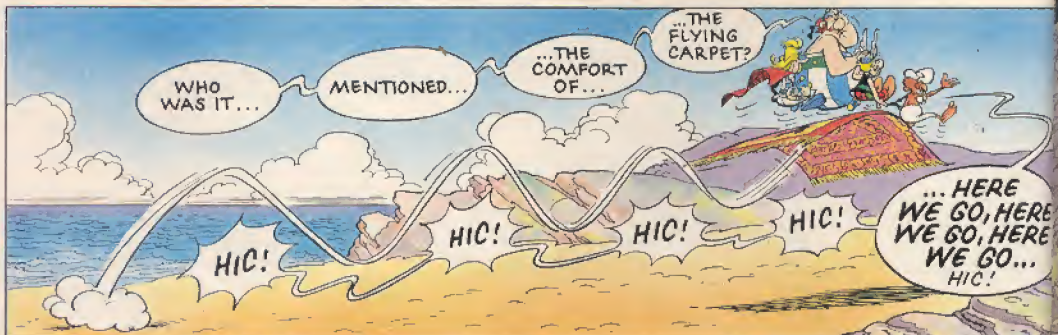
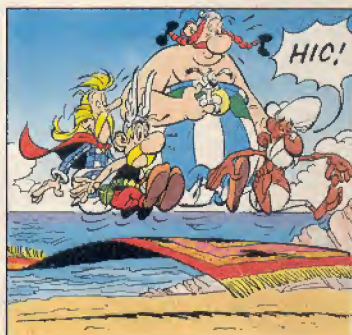
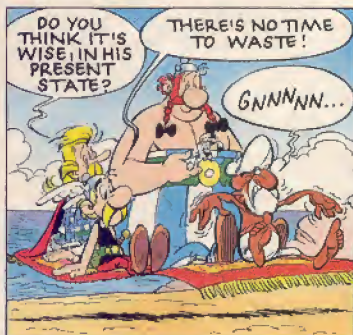
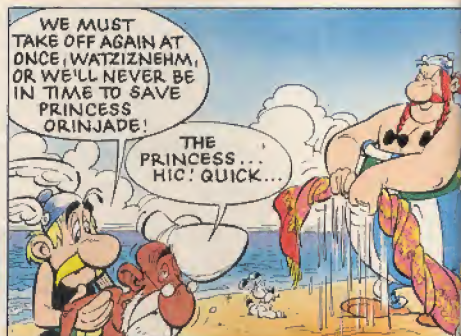
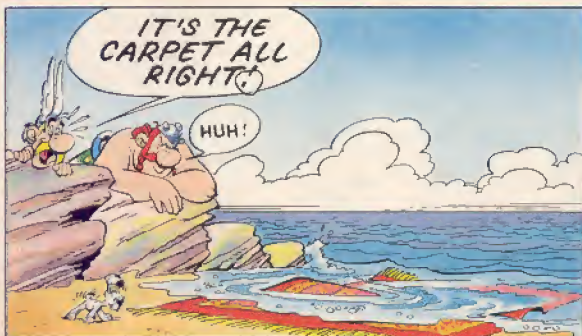
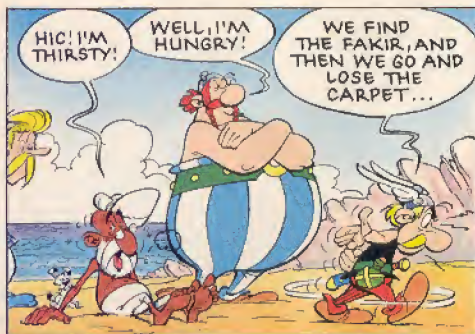












MEANWHILE, VERY FAR AWAY...

LEMUHNADÉ,
MY FAITHFUL
LEMUHNADÉ,
DO YOU SEE
ANYONE
COMING?

THE ANSWER
IS A LEMON*.

*FRUITLESS

WELL, OWZAT, MY WICKED
HENCHMAN, THE HEIR OF THIS
KINGDOM WILL SOON BREATHE
HER LAST OF THE AIR OF THIS
KINGDOM! RATHER DRY, EH?
HERE'S TO THE SUCCESS
OF OUR PLANS!

YOU ALWAYS DID
HAVE A DRY WIT, O
DIVINE MASTER,
CHEERS! AND MAY
THE FORCES OF EVIL
MAKE THAT TALKATIVE
FOOL WATZIZNEHM
DRY UP FOR
EVER!

I'M A FOOL,
AND I'VE GOT
A TERRIBLE
THIRST!

WELL, I'M NO FOOL,
BUT I'VE GOT A
TERRIBLE HUNGER!

WHY BLAME
YOURSELF?
IT'S NOT
YOUR
FAULT!

I HAVE
COMMITTED THE
SIN OF GLUTTONY!
NET RESULT: A
SPLITTING HEAD-
ACHE AND A FRIGHT-
FUL WASTE OF
TIME!

WELL, WE'LL SOON BE
FLYING OVER ATHENS, AND
THEN WE LEAVE GREECE
BEHIND!

SURE ENOUGH, AFTER A
HUNDRED AND FIFTY HOURS'
FLYING TIME...

REMEMBER
OUR TRIP TO THE
OLYMPIC GAMES,
OBELIX?

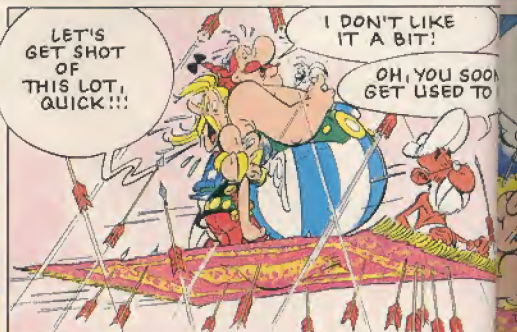
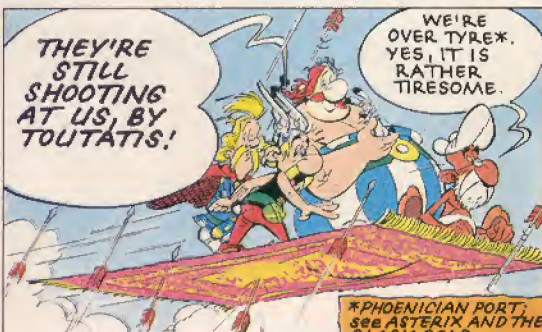
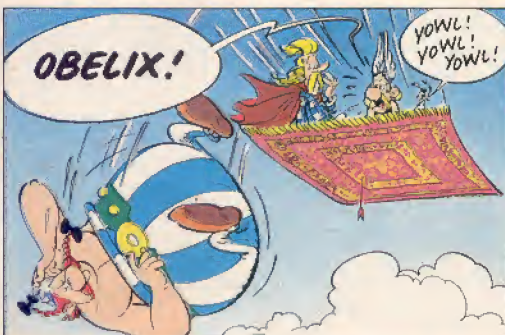
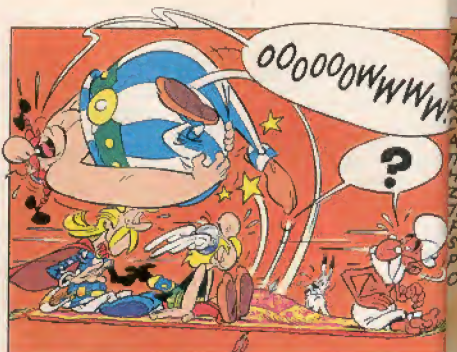
YES, SPECIALLY
THERMOS'S LITTLE
RESTAURANT AND HIS
STUFFED VINE LEAVES,
KEBABS, OLIVES, WATER
MELON AND RESINATED
WINE! * (SIGH)

*see ASTERIX AT THE
OLYMPIC GAMES.

THE HOURS
PASS
INEXORABLY
BY... THEREBY
HANGS MANY
A TALE.

WE SHALL
SOON BE LEAVING
THE SEA FOR THE
LAST TIME AND
FLYING OVER THE
LANDS OF THE
ORIENT!

GOOD! WE
CAN COME
DOWN AND HAVE
SOME DINNER
AT LAST!



*PHOENICIAN PORT;
see ASTERIX AND THE
BLACK GOLD

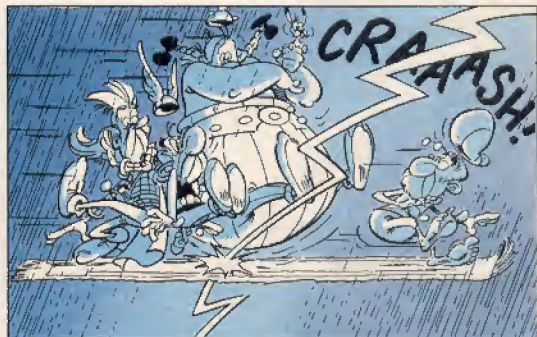
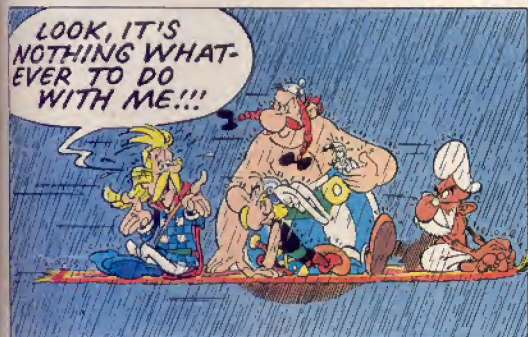
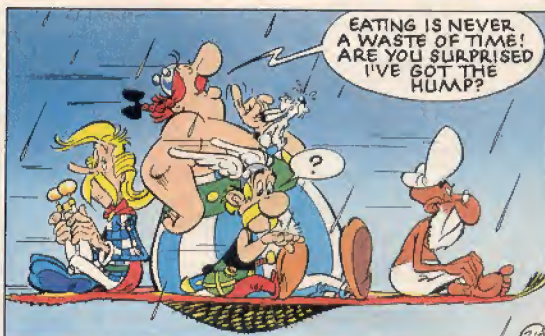
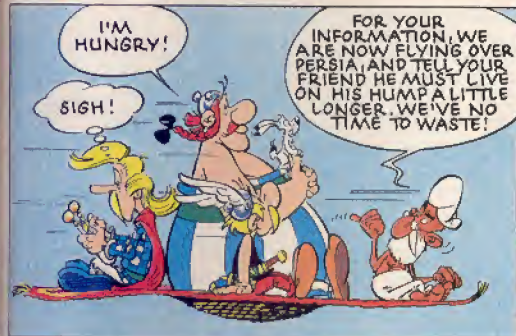
THE SKY OVER
RAJAH WATZIT'S
KINGDOM IS
STILL
RELENTLESSLY
CLEAR, AND WE
ARE NOW ONLY
THREE HUNDRED
HOURS FROM
ZERO HOUR,
THE TIME SET
FOR THE
SACRIFICE OF
PRINCESS
ORINJADE.

LEMUHNADÉ,
LEMUHNADÉ, DO
YOU SEE ANYONE
COMING?

THE
ANSWER'S
STILL A
LEMON...

YOUR WEATHER FORECASTS
HAVE BEEN ACCURATE SO
FAR, OWZAT! NOT A CLOUD
ON THE HORIZON. BUT
SUPPOSE WATZITNEHM
BRINGS THAT GAUL BACK IN
TIME TO MAKE IT RAIN?

I DON'T BELIEVE
IN THAT KIND OF
MIRACLE, O DIVINE
MASTER. FLYING
CARPETS ARE ONE
THING, BUT RAIN-
MAKING IS SHEER
SCIENCE FICTION!

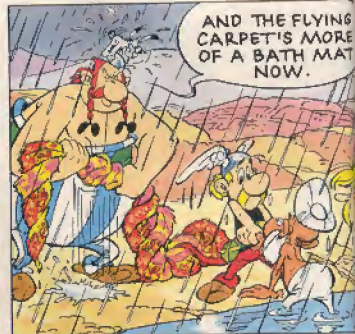




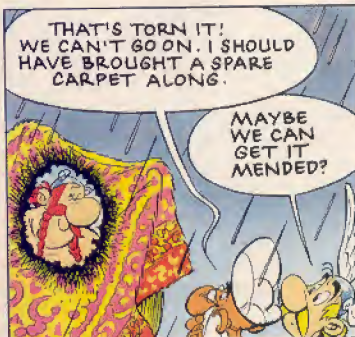
WHAT LUCK I MANAGED TO DIVERT OUR FLIGHT PATH TOWARDS THIS RIVER!

YES, BUT NOW WE'RE ALL WASHED UP!

THIS POURS COLD WATER ON OUR PLANS!



AND THE FLYING CARPET'S MORE OF A BATH MAT NOW.



THAT'S TORN IT! WE CAN'T GO ON. I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A SPARE CARPET ALONG.

MAYBE WE CAN GET IT MENDED?

THAT'S POSSIBLE... IN FACT, WE MAY HAVE FALLEN ON OUR FEET, LANDING HERE! PERSIA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS CARPETS. IF WE GO ON ALONG THIS RIVER, WE MIGHT FIND A CARPET MENDER.



BUT AFTER A WALK OF SEVERAL HOURS...

WE'VE HAD THE RUG PULLED OUT FROM UNDER US!

I'M HUNGRY!

AND TIME IS PASSING. WE'RE DONE FOR NOW.

LOOK... A VILLAGE OVER THERE!



HELLO. I SEE YOU HAVE SOME VERY FINE CARPETS!

I'M A CARPET MAKER. I'M WASHING THE ONE I'VE JUST FINISHED WEAVING.

IF YOU WANT A WELL WASHED CARPET, I'VE GOT ONE!

COULD YOU MEND THIS?



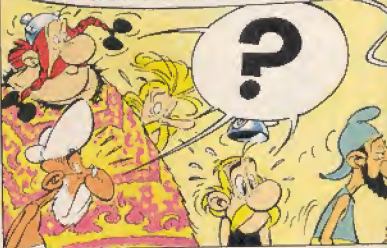
SORRY, CAN'T BE DONE!

WHY NOT?

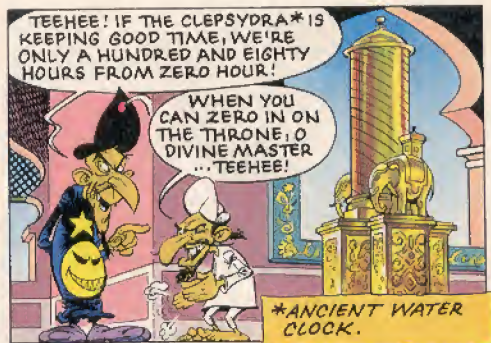


BECAUSE I ONLY MEND THE CARPETS I MAKE AND SELL MYSELF! WHAT'S MORE, NOBODY AROUND HERE WOULD AGREE TO MEND A CARPET THAT WASN'T MADE IN PERSIA!

?

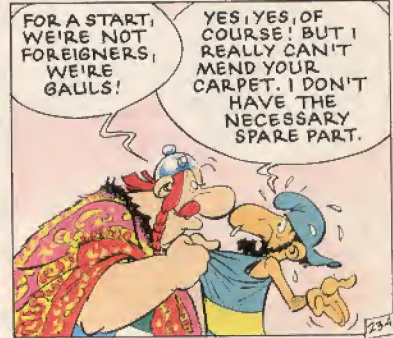


NG
RE
AT

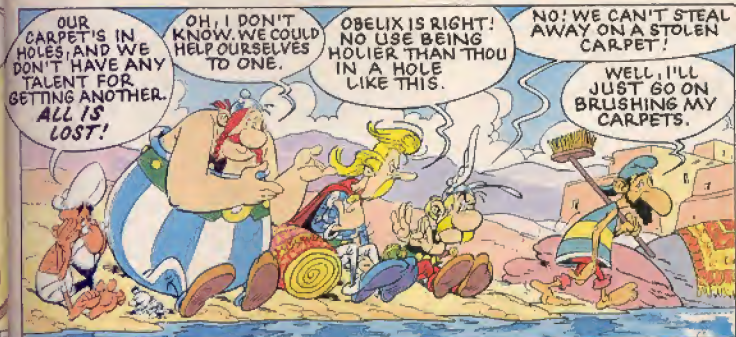
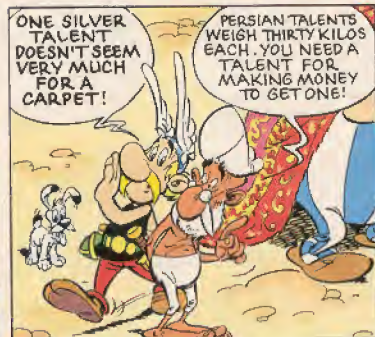
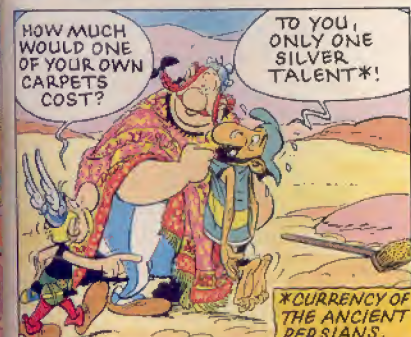


A
OVER
E!

MEANWHILE...



S
MORE,
EE
IT





**THE PIRATES
WILL STEAL OUR
CARPETS AND BURN
OUR HOUSES DOWN
AGAIN!!!**



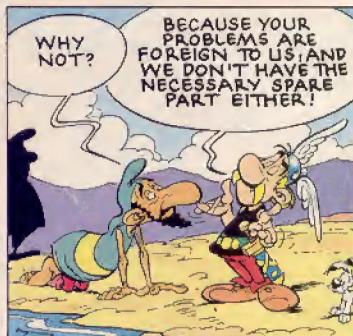
I BEG YOU! IF
YOU HAVE ANY POWERS,
HELP US TO MEND
MATTERS, OR IT WILL
BE THE END OF OUR
VILLAGE!!!

SORRY,
CAN'T BE
DONE!



WHY
NOT?

BECAUSE YOUR
PROBLEMS ARE
FOREIGN TO US, AND
WE DON'T HAVE THE
NECESSARY SPARE
PART EITHER!



WHAT'S
THAT?

A
CARPET!



TAKE THIS
ONE, BY AHURA
MAZDA*

DONE, BY
TOUTATIS



*GOD OF THE
ANCIENT PERSIANS.

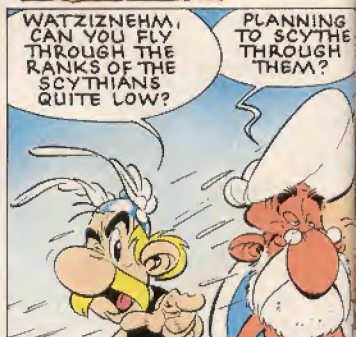
CACOFONIX,
YOU WAIT HERE
WITH DOGMATIX.
THIS WON'T
TAKE LONG!

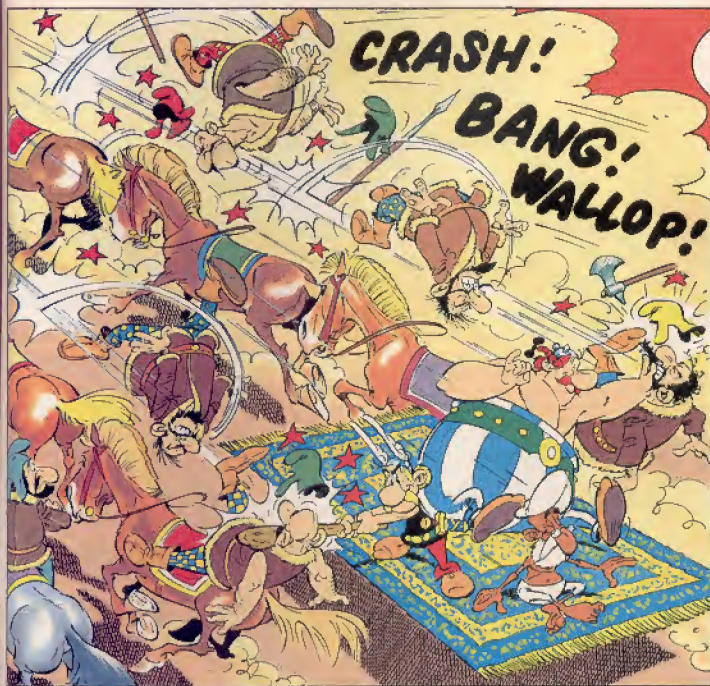
A BIT OF
ACTION AT
LAST!



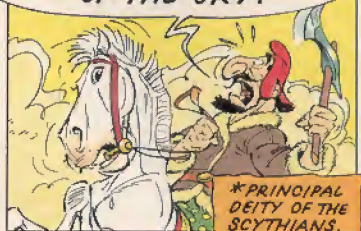
WATZIZNEHM,
CAN YOU FLY
THROUGH THE
RANKS OF THE
SCYTHIANS
QUITE LOW?

PLANNING
TO SCYTHE
THROUGH
THEM?





BY THE GREAT
GODDESS*! WE MUST FLY
FROM THESE DEMONS
OF THE SKY!



*PRINCIPAL
DEITY OF THE
SCYTHIANS.



OVER ALREADY?
I PREFER ROMANS.
THEY LAST
LONGER!



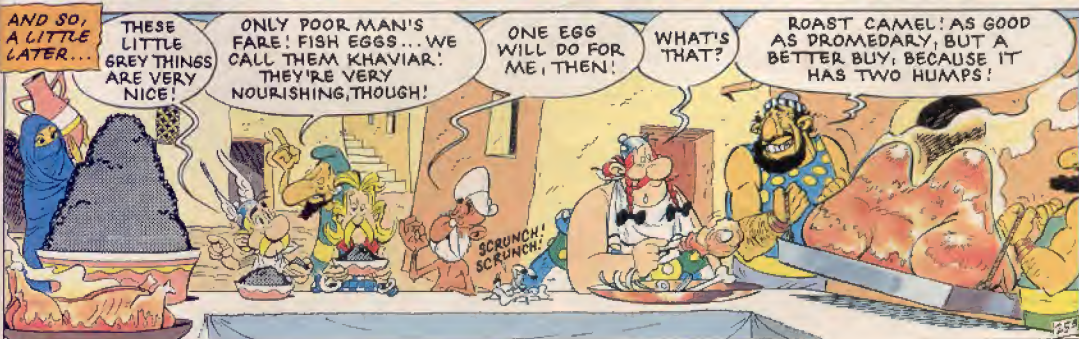
LONG LIVE
OUR RESCUERS!

AND THEY
DID IT WITH
MY CARPET,
TOO!



WE OWE YOU
A LOT! WHAT
CAN WE GIVE YOU,
BESIDES THE
CARPET?

SOMETHING
TO EAT!



AND SO,
A LITTLE
LATER...

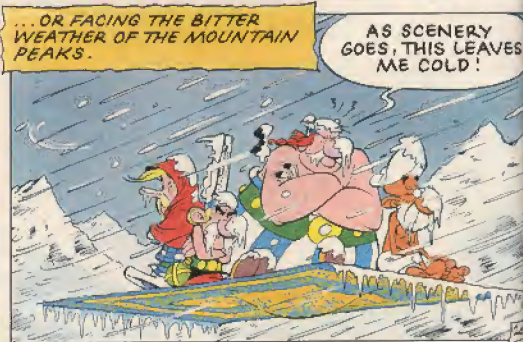
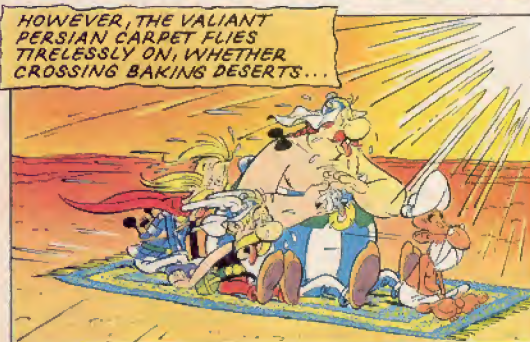
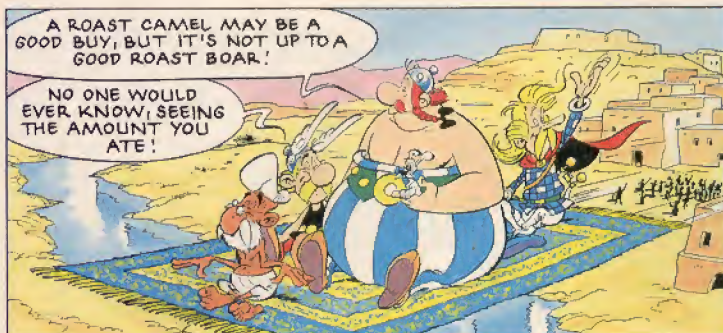
THESE
LITTLE
GREY THINGS
ARE VERY
NICE!

ONLY POOR MAN'S
FARE! FISH EGGS... WE
CALL THEM KHAVIAR.
THEY'RE VERY
NOURISHING, THOUGH!

ONE EGG
WILL DO FOR
ME, THEN!

WHAT'S
THAT?

ROAST CAMEL! AS GOOD
AS PROMEDARY, BUT A
BETTER BUY, BECAUSE IT
HAS TWO HUMPS!



AT LAST, 30 HOURS, 30 MINUTES
AND 30 SECONDS FROM ZERO HOUR...

HERE WE ARE! THE RIVER GANGES!



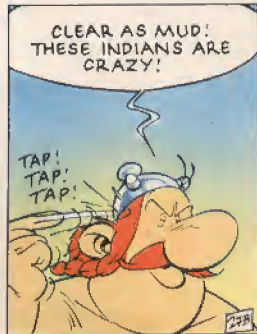
LOOKS A
BIT GUNGY, AS
RIVERS GO!

WHAT ARE ALL
THOSE PEOPLE
DOING, SQUELCHING
ABOUT IN THE
MUD?

THE GANGES IS A SACRED RIVER. EVEN IN THIS DROUGHT, THE PEOPLE STILL COME HERE TO WASH, THUS PURIFYING THEIR SOULS AND BODIES. SEE?

CLEAR AS MUD!
THESE INDIANS ARE
CRAZY!

TAP!
TAP!
TAP

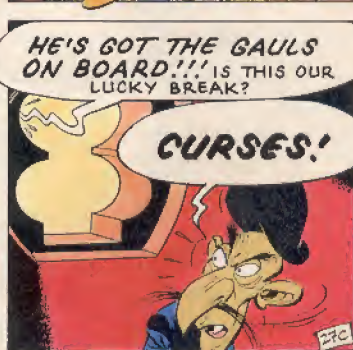
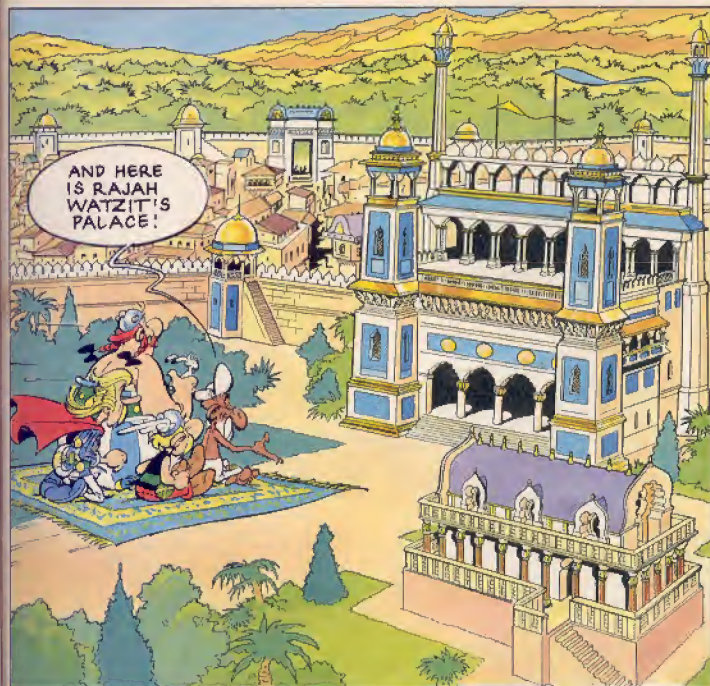


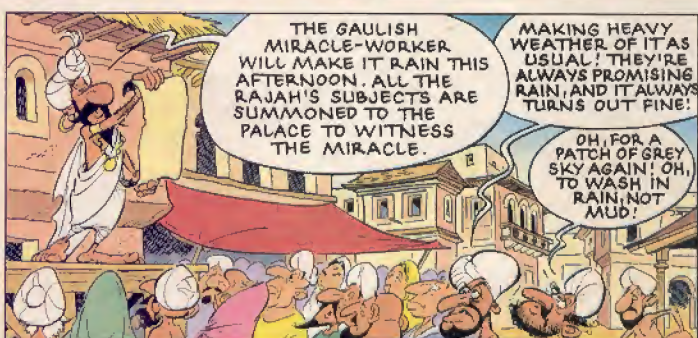
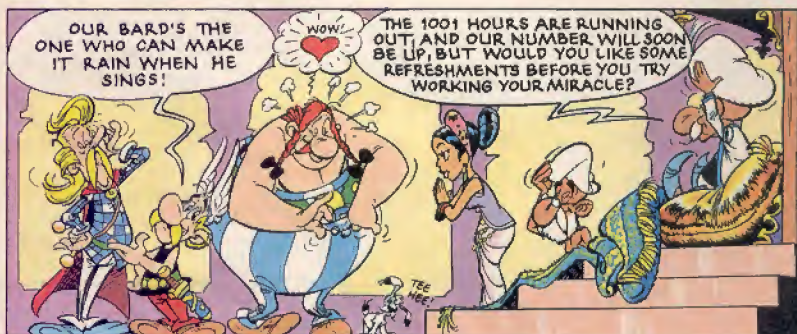
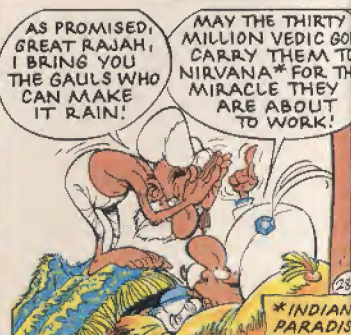
AND HERE
IS RAJAH
WATZIT'S
PALACE!

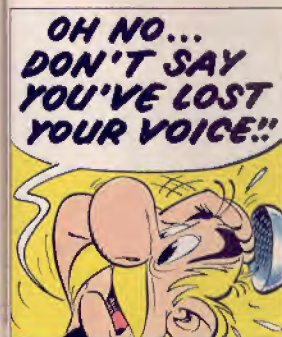
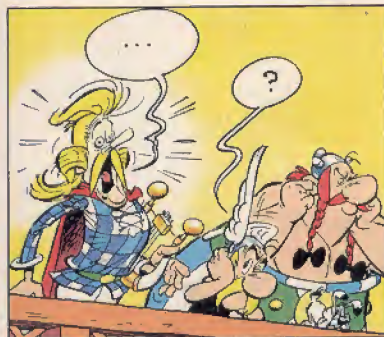
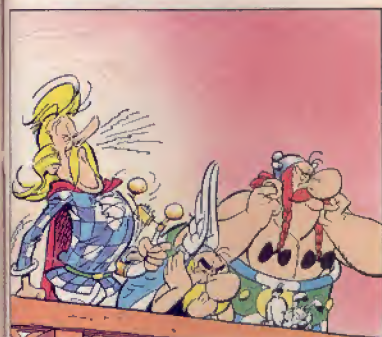
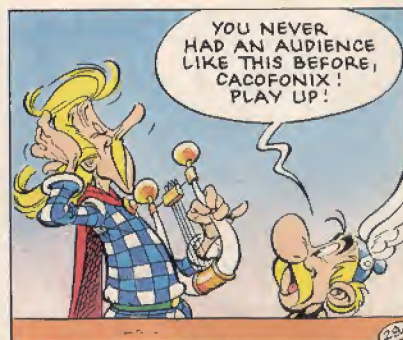
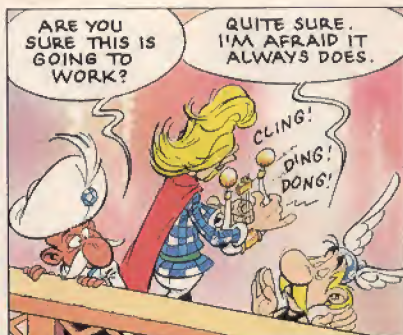
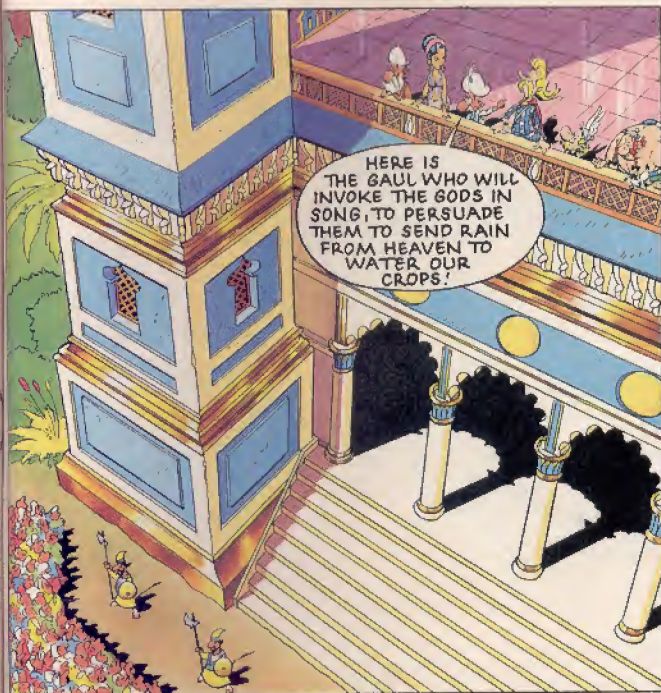
I SEE
WATZIZNEHM'S
CARPET COMING IN
... HE'S ABOUT TO
BRAKE...

**HE'S GOT THE GAULS
ON BOARD!!!** IS THIS OUR
LUCKY BREAK?

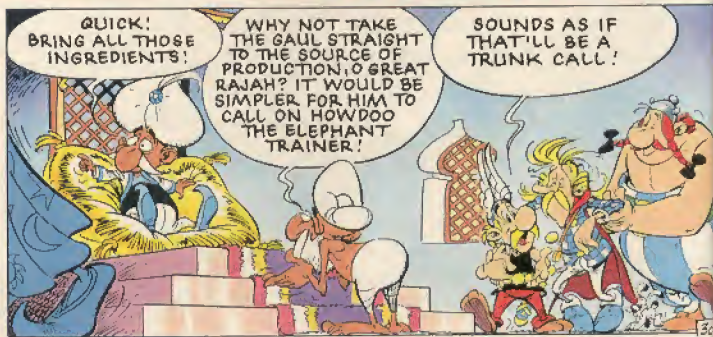
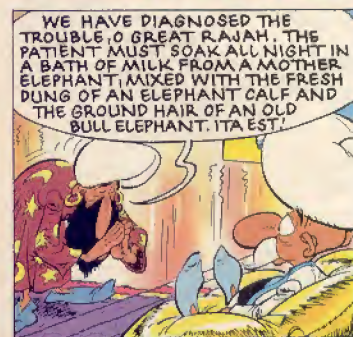
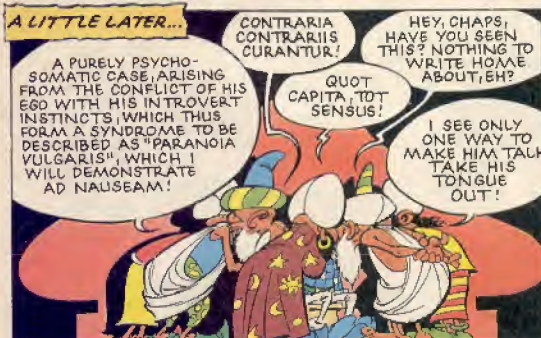
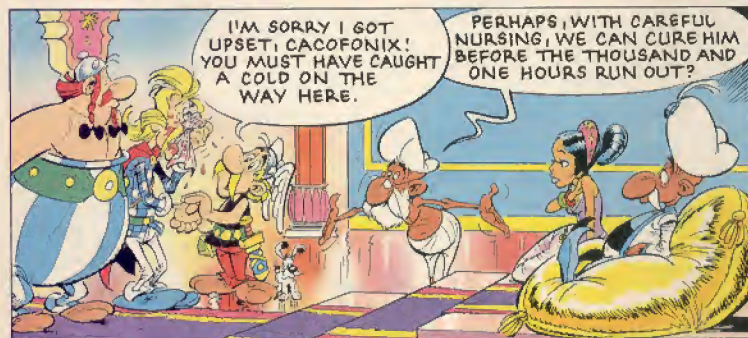
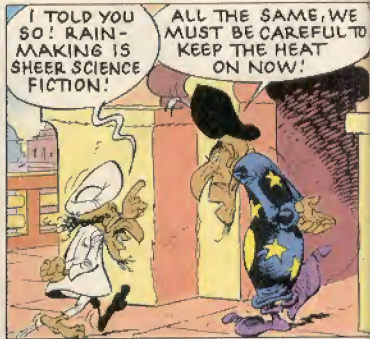
CURSES!

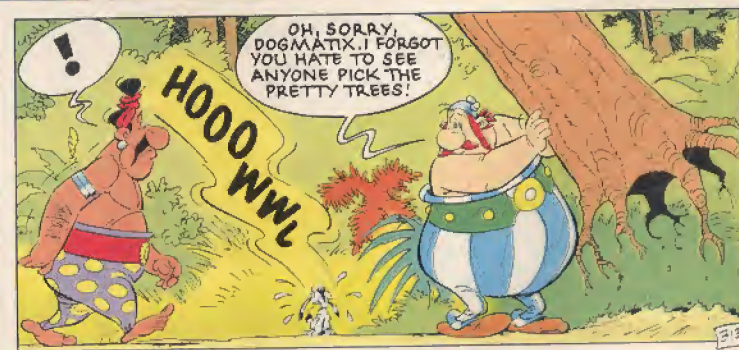
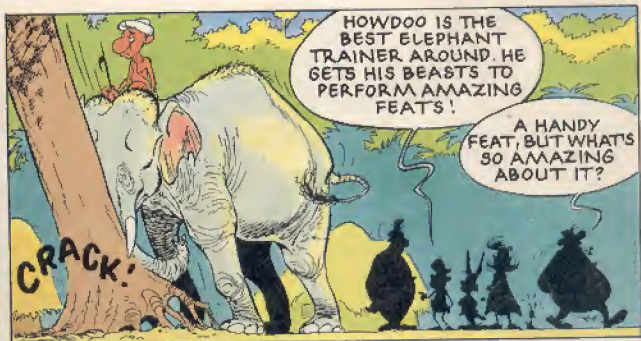
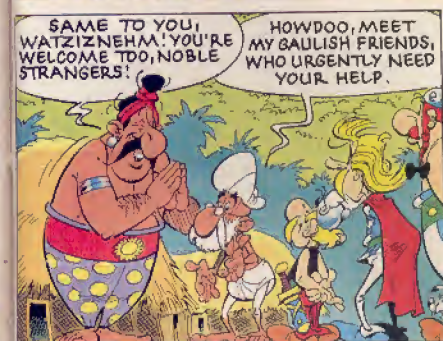
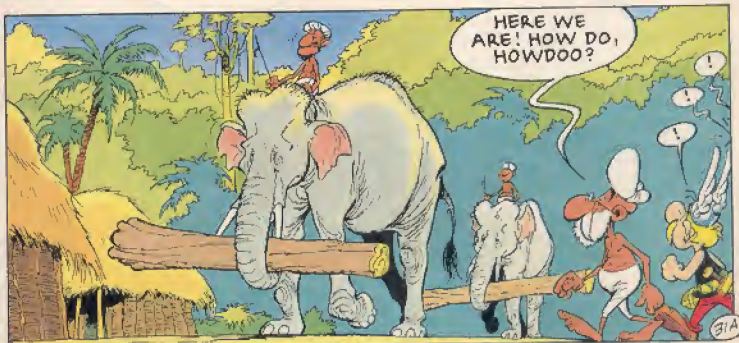
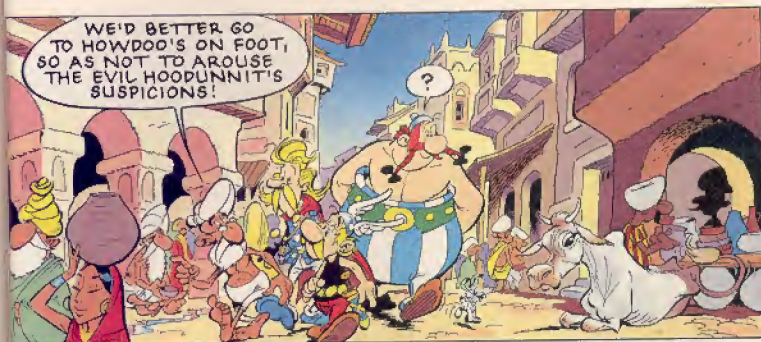


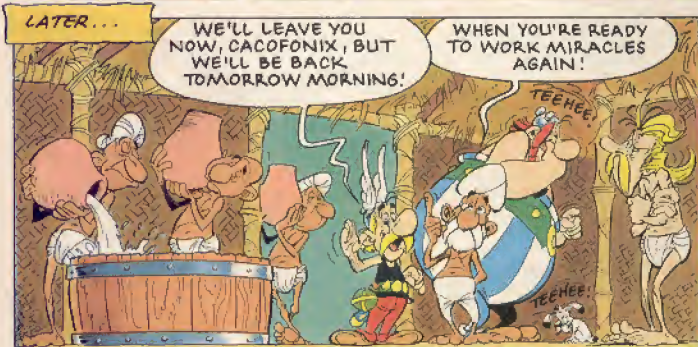
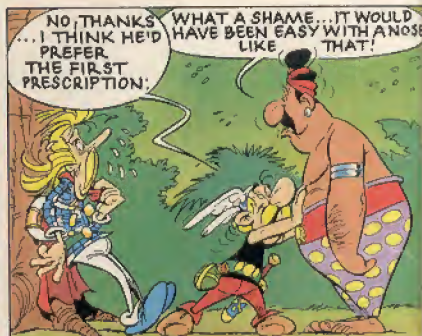
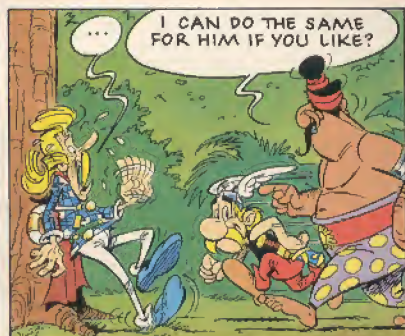
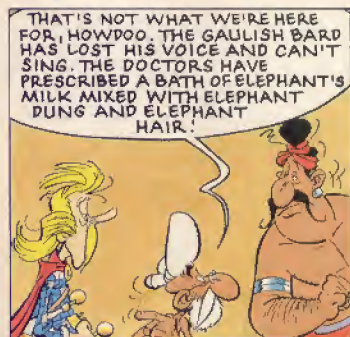




*INCARNATIONS AND METAMORPHOSES OF THE INDIAN GODS.







WHEN NIGHT HAS FALLEN, EIGHTEEN HOURS FROM ZERO HOUR...

WHAT A PONG! IT MAKES ME GAG!

WELL, WE NEEDN'T WASTE TIME GAGGING HIM, SINCE HE CAN'T SPEAK.



I CAN STAND MOST THINGS... THE NIGHT, THE JUNGLE, THE JUNGLE BY NIGHT, BUT THIS STINK IS TOO MUCH FOR ME!

THE SOONER WE GET THERE, THE BETTER FOR US!



BY NOW OUR MEN WILL BE TAKING THE GAUL TO THE SACRED SANCTUARY OF THE ELEPHANTS' GRAVEYARD, IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE!

TEEHEEHEE! WHEN HE'S FOUND, THE FURIOUS ELEPHANTS WILL HAVE TRAMPLED HIM TO THE THICKNESS OF A DRACHMAN!

* GREEK COIN USED IN INDIA.



NEXT MORNING, WITH TEN HOURS TO GO TO ZERO HOUR...

TIME TO GO AND GET CACOFONIX! IT'LL BE QUICKER BY CARPET!

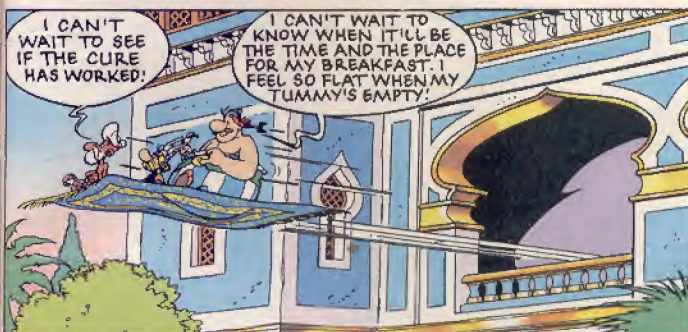
WHAT ABOUT MY BREAKFAST?

THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING!



I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IF THE CURE HAS WORKED!

I CAN'T WAIT TO KNOW WHEN IT'LL BE THE TIME AND THE PLACE FOR MY BREAKFAST. I FEEL SO FLAT WHEN MY TUMMY'S EMPTY!



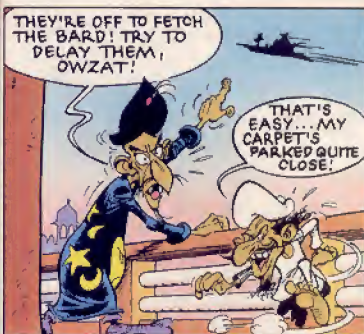
AND YOUR TUMMY'S NOT THE ONLY EMPTY PART OF YOU!

THERE, YOU ADMIT IT YOURSELF!

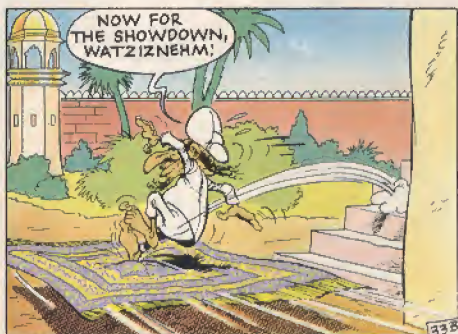


THEY'RE OFF TO FETCH THE BARD! TRY TO DELAY THEM, OWZAT!

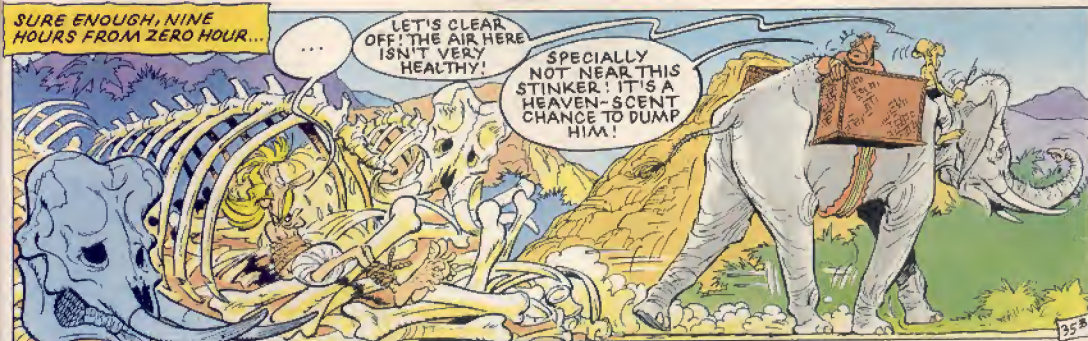
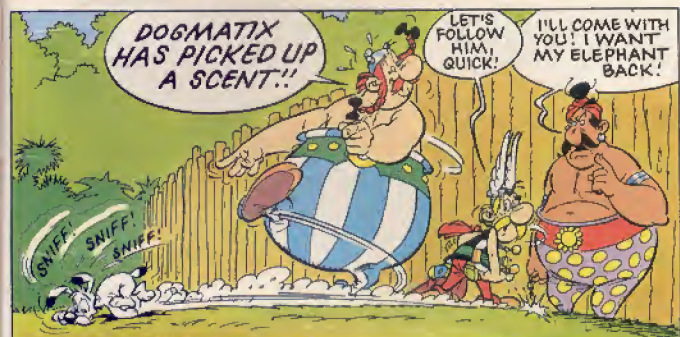
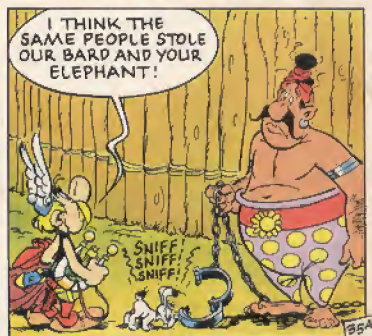
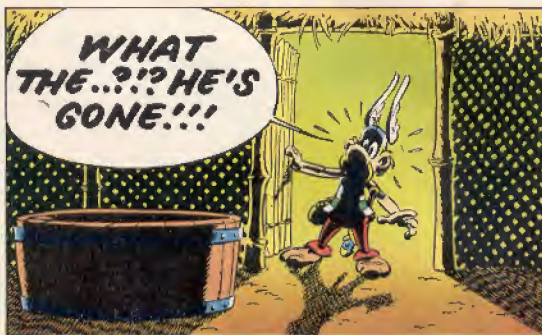
THAT'S EASY... MY CARPET'S PARKED QUITE CLOSE!

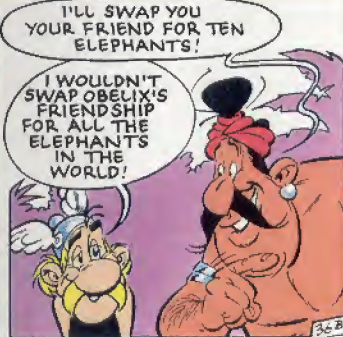
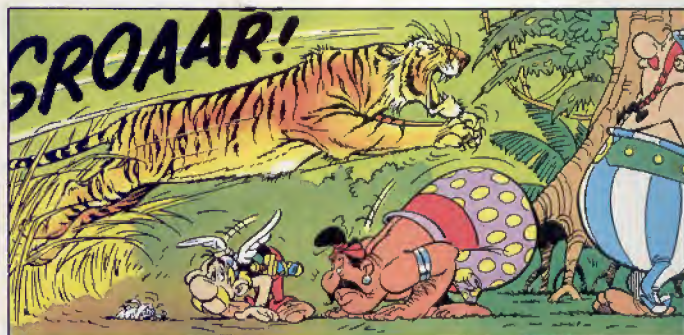
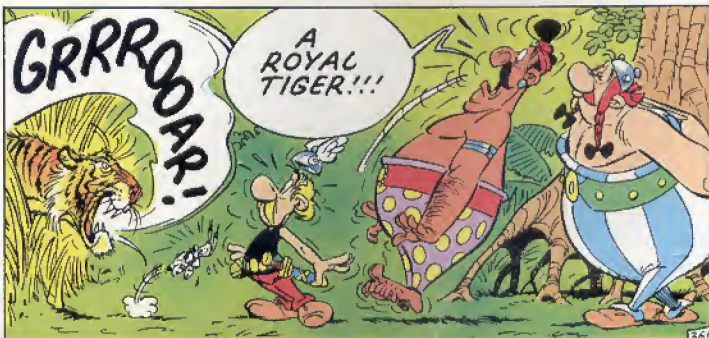
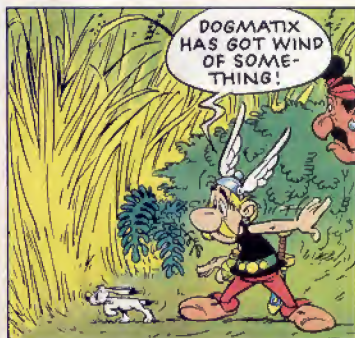


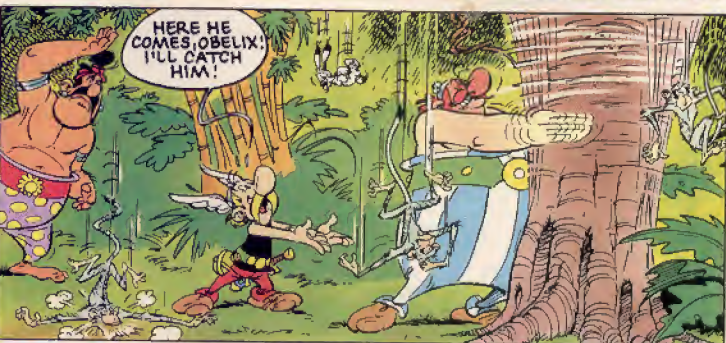
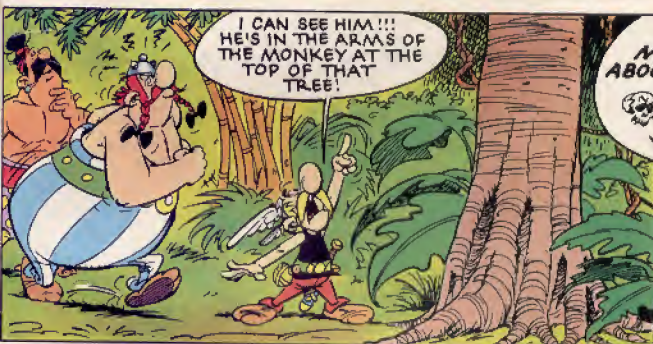
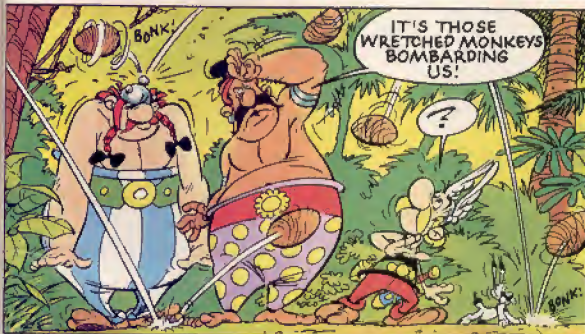
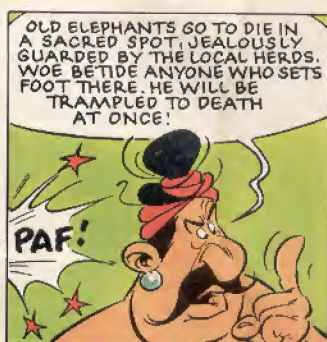
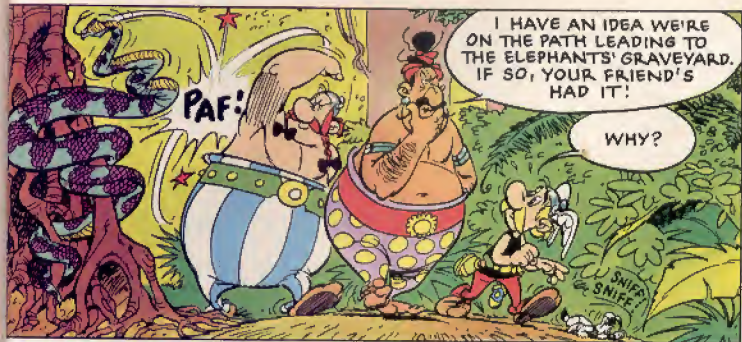
NOW FOR THE SHOWDOWN, WATZIZNEHM!

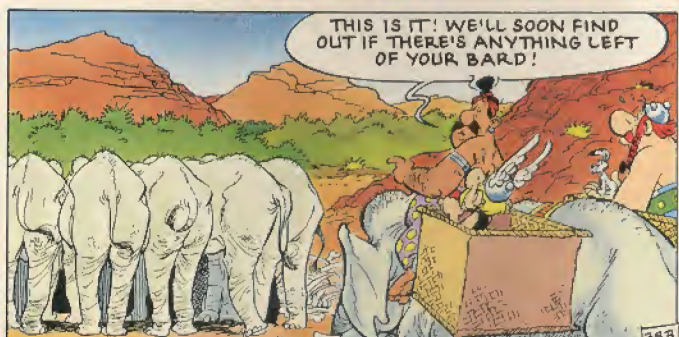
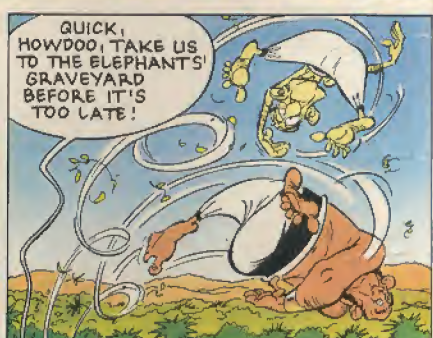
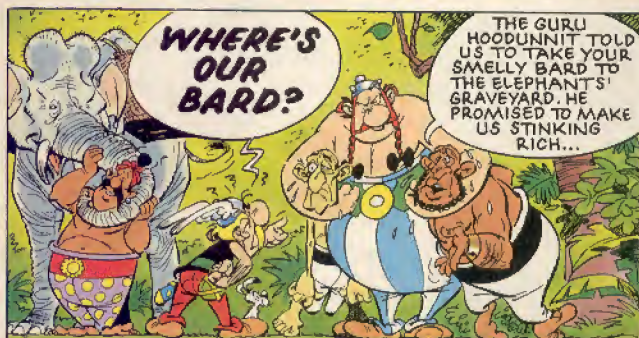
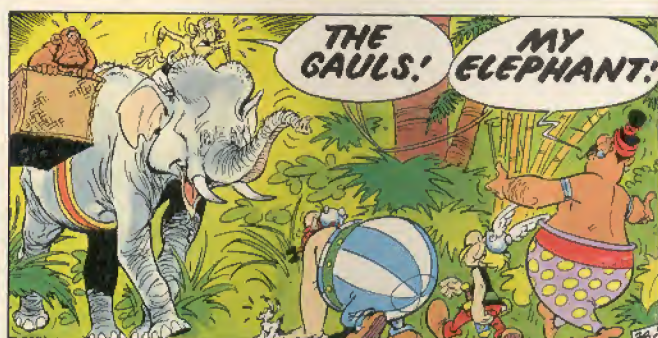
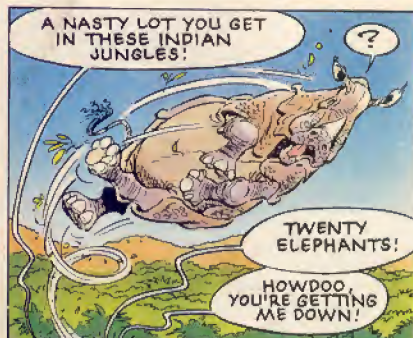


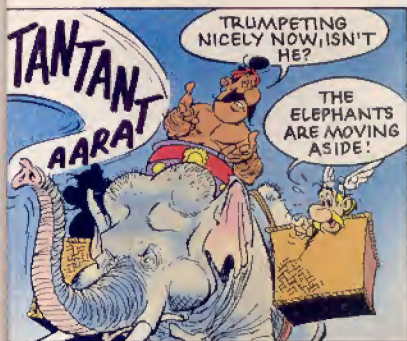






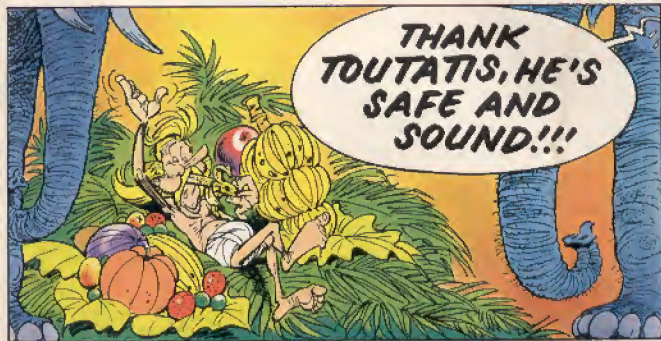






TRUMPETING NICELY NOW, ISN'T HE?

THE ELEPHANTS ARE MOVING ASIDE!



THANK TOUTATIS, HE'S SAFE AND SOUND!!!

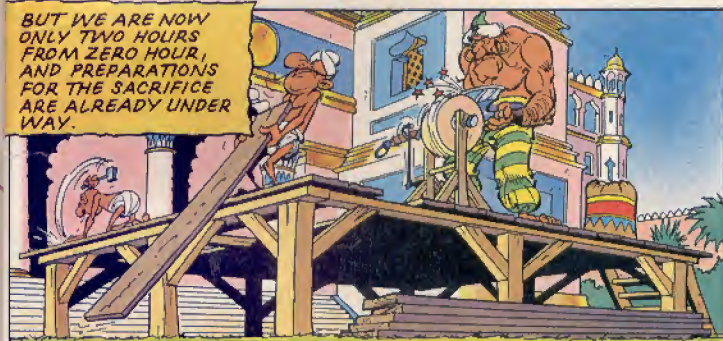


THANKS TO THE SMELLING TO HIM, THE ELEPHANTS THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THEM! WHAT LUCK FOR HIM!

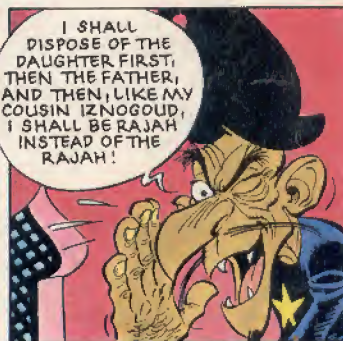
I KNEW I HAD NOTHING IN COMMON WITH THOSE PACHYDERMS!

YOU'VE STILL LOST YOUR VOICE, BUT YOU'RE ALIVE, THAT'S THE MAIN THING!

TANTANTARAAAA!



BUT WE ARE NOW ONLY TWO HOURS FROM ZERO HOUR, AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE SACRIFICE ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY.



I SHALL DISPOSE OF THE DAUGHTER FIRST, THEN THE FATHER, AND THEN, LIKE MY COUSIN IZNOGOD, I SHALL BE RAJAH INSTEAD OF THE RAJAH!



WHAT CAN THE GAULS BE DOING? WHERE IS WATZIZNEHM?

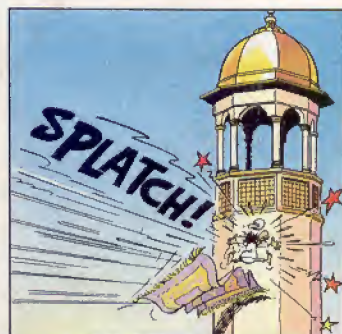
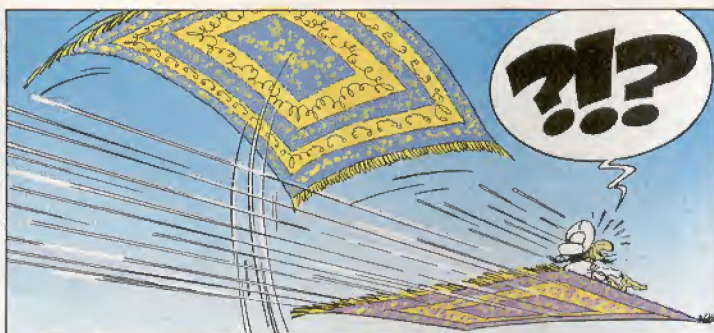
WATZIZNEHM IS STILL BUSY WITH HIS SUMMIT MEETING, WHICH OF THE TWO FAKIRS WILL WIN? WATZIZNEHM? OWZAT? IT'S ALL STILL IN THE AIR...

SKAMBHA* BRING THE SKY DOWN ON YOUR HEAD!!

PUSHAN** TURN YOU INTO AN OLD GOAT!



*COSMIC PILLAR GOD HOLDING UP THE SKY. **GOD OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

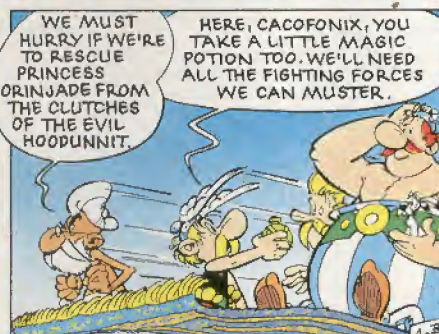
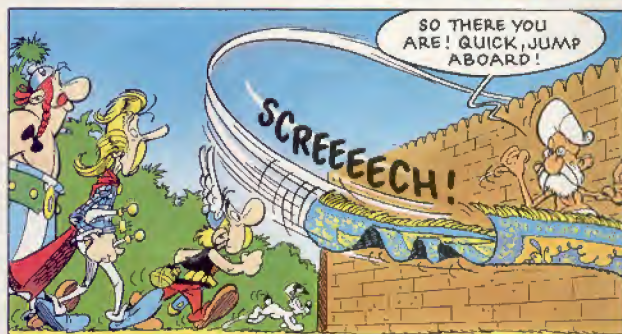
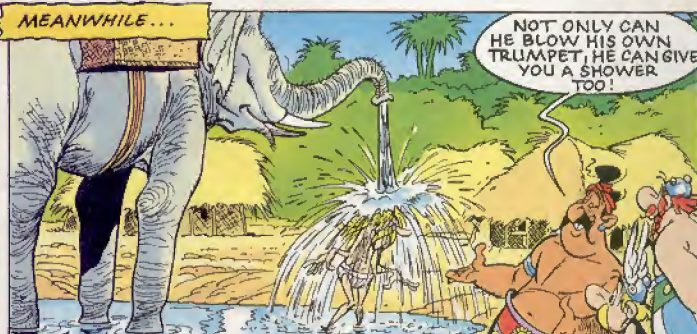


AND THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE ZERO HOUR...

I MUST FIND THE GAULS, QUICK!



MEANWHILE...



HERE, CACOFONIX, YOU TAKE A LITTLE MAGIC POTION TOO. WE'LL NEED ALL THE FIGHTING FORCES WE CAN MUSTER.

AT FIVE
MINUTES TO
ZERO HOUR...

BETTER RESIGN
YOURSELF, PRINCESS!
STILL NO RAIN! YOUR LAST
HOUR HAS COME!



MAY VISHNU*
STRANGLE YOU,
EVIL GURU!

*GOD WITH
MANY ARMS.



MAY MY SACRIFICE
PERSUADE HEAVEN TO SHOWER
ITS BLESSINGS ON YOU ONCE
AGAIN! IF IT DOES NOT, BEWARE
OF THOSE SERPENTS WHO ARE
TRICKING YOU FOR THEIR
OWN EVIL ENDS!



LONG LIVE OUR
PRINCESS WHO IS ABOUT TO DIE FOR US!!!

POOR
SILLY
IDIOTS!



FIVE...
FOUR...
THREE...



TWO...



ONE...

ZERO!



TC HAC!

